



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

Dear friends,

Next week marks the beginning of Lent with **Ash Wednesday** on the 22nd of February. There will be a service in the White Tower at 7pm with the imposition of ashes. For most people, there is the belief that the tradition of Lent is grounded in our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness, but in fact Lent was traditionally a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Starting with Ash Wednesday, people would prepare themselves for Holy Week by prayer, penitence and self-examination. For many, the idea of 'giving something up' for Lent has become a kind of preparation for Holy Week.

The church colour will change to purple and we will not use the Gloria during Holy Communion. What I hope we will try to do is to make the six weeks of Lent this year into something different and special which will help us draw nearer to God.

Some years ago I recommended one or two books to read during Lent, and I shall be doing that again in a future newsletter.

Turkey and Syria Earthquakes.

I have sent, on behalf of the chapel, £1,000 to the disaster appeal for Turkey and Syria. Please can I encourage you to help as well and to send whatever you can to the DEC appeal. So many people are without homes, medical aid and basic needs such as food, water, blankets and clothes. The numbers affected run into many thousands and the weather is very cold.

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

**Services Details, 19th February 2023
Quinquagesima Sunday**

0195 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

Psalm 2

Readings

Exodus 24: 12 - end.

Matthew 17: 1-9.

Collect for Quinquagesima Sunday

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth: Send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee: Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Buried at the east end of the chapel of St Peter ad Vincula are two of the three Queens of England buried within the chapel, and both their anniversaries fall this week:

12th February 1554 marks the death of Lady Jane Grey by execution on Tower Green. She was also known as the 'nine days Queen'.

13th February 1542 marks the death of Queen Catherine Howard, the fifth wife of Henry VIII, again by execution on Tower Green.



Poem of the week

Gwyneth Davies (who is professionally known as Gwyneth Lewis) is a Welsh poet. She was National Poet of Wales in 2005. As this is a poem about angels, you will understand it is one that I like. The poem is one of a sequence of twelve short poems about angels; here she asks us to take note of those things that speak to us, outside of ourselves. Gwyneth Lewis recognises that what may seem to be voices outside ourselves, can't be taken completely on trust. In another poem she says 'angel voices sometimes come in disguise'. I wonder what you think.

How to Read Angels

Yes, information, but that's never all,
there's some service, a message. A lie dispelled,
something forgiven, an alternative world
glimpsed, for a moment, what you wanted to hear
but never thought possible. You feel a fool
but do something anyway and are filled
with delight as you unfold

like a wing in a thermal. If it's peace
you're left with after your left-of-field
encounter, that's angels. If you feel less fear
and trust yourself less. But beware
of the other voices, easier to bear
which sound more like angels than angels do
but leave you in turmoil, saying 'More. More.
More.'

Gwyneth Lewis MBE b. 1959 –

Ash Wednesday

7pm, Wednesday 22nd February

Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower
All welcome to attend.

Tracy's Garden - Japanese Quince



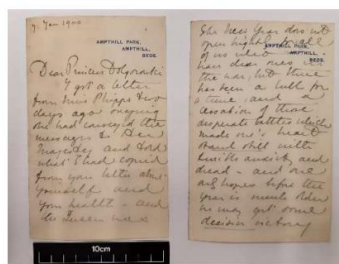
Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=363eba344155>



Historic Royal Palaces – Objects of the month

Letters



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HRP recently acquired this very interesting collection of 72 autograph letters. These letters are a combination of both handwritten and typed, and all are signed from various British royal servants, dated from the 18th to the 20th century. Most of the letters are signed from ladies-in-waiting or personal secretaries to the Monarch and show a rare insight to the workings of the Royal Household.

The earliest letter is from John McMahon (private secretary and keeper of the privy purse to George Prince of Wales), dated 27 December 1797, to Sir Lionel Darell giving the Prince's approval of 'the enclosed list'. Many of the more modern typed letters are signed on Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Kensington Palace headed paper.

Ring



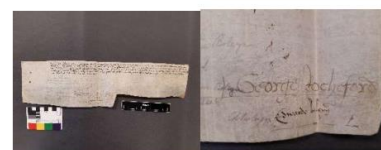
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This cast and engraved medieval gold and enamel signet ring probably dates to the 15th or early 16th century. It was discovered by a metal detectorist close to Shurland Hall on the Isle of Sheppey, an estate with connections to the Boleyn family, and site of a visit by Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII in 1532.

The ring has a simple round loop with D-shaped cross-section. It has a high circular bezel engraved with the head of a bull, with the letter 'r' between the horns of the bull, all within a cabled border.

On each shoulder of the hoop is a prominent slightly dished oval panel engraved iconographic figures, on one side the Virgin and Child, and on the other the crowned figure of St. Catherine of Alexandria, with her attributes of a wheel and a sword.

Manuscript



3004603

This incredibly rare Latin deed on vellum is signed by both George Rocheford (c.1504-1536) and Edward Boleyn (1496-c.1570) on 21 February 1532. Viscount Rochford was George Boleyn, Anne Boleyn's brother. George and Anne's uncle Sir Edward Boleyn (1496-1571) was a younger brother of their father, Thomas Boleyn (c.1477-1539).

After Anne Boleyn became established as the King's favourite in 1527, George's career accelerated rapidly and the Boleyns entrenched themselves at court.

The letter itself is relevant as payment for Viscount Rochford's services as Cupbearer to the King and feeding the buckhounds (hunting pack) paid by Henry Tuke, who in 1528 became Treasurer of the Chamber.

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 and Florence.

RIP

Howard Broomby and Katja Hill.

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.



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