



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

Dear Friends,

I hope that this Newsletter finds you well and safe. I am taking up the pen - or keyboard – once again this week while Roger and Barbara head for Scotland. I am sure you will agree with me that it has been wonderful to be back in the Chapel and once more to have our worship enhanced by a full choir. We are doing our best to return to normality, but this week's Government announcements have been a sobering reminder that we all have a long way to go. The scientific consensus is that Covid-19 is here to stay and that we shall, in the words of one expert, have to live with it for a few hundred years. It could be depressing to think that further lockdowns might have to be imposed but at least we now know that we can cope with them, however irksome the temporary restrictions may be. As Roger said in his Thought for the Day and his Newsletter last week, we aim to make continued provision for those who prefer to wear masks and to keep at a distance from others, so nobody should feel inhibited from coming to the Chapels for our services. Outside the Chapels, it has been good to see visitors returning and to hear the Yeoman Warders once again delivering their remarkable addresses to the tourists. I find that having our services punctuated by cheers from beyond our Chapel walls is one of the pleasures of worshipping at the Tower.

**Sunday Service Details**  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Trinity 16**

0915 Holy Communion (said) - St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Sung Matins - St Peter ad Vincula  
Readings: James 3: 13 - 4:3 and 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

**Collect for the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Memorial Service for Vice-Admiral Rory McLean CB OBE**  
**Monday 27 September at 1130**

There will be a memorial service for the late Vice-Admiral Rory MacLean CB OBE at 1130 on Monday 27 September in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. I know that many of us will remember Rory with warmth and affection. All are welcome to attend this service at which we shall recall his ready wit and loyal support of the Chapel over the years.



## Harvest Festival Sunday 26 September

Our Harvest Festival celebration this year will be on Sunday 26 September at 1100. Do come and bring contributions to the Food Bank run by our friends at the First Love Foundation, who have done sterling work throughout the lockdowns and who continue to support some of the neediest in Tower Hamlets. If you are unable to bring items, do please consider making a donation through their website at: [First Love Foundation](#) .



## The Tower of London

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September the Princess Royal attended the Ceremony of the Constable's Dues at the Tower of London.

When a Royal Navy vessel sails through London, it is tradition to present the Constable with a barrel of wine – the “dues.” HRH is sponsor of HMS Albion.



## Thought for the Day

From the Reverend Cortland Fransella

<https://youtu.be/FYKtYOT3QE4>

## Our Congregation

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Henry and Lauren were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



## Poem

### I Am In Need Of Music

Laura has chosen this poem for you this week. Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979) was an American poet and short story writer. She was Poet Laureate of the US from 1949-50, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1956 and is considered one of the most important and distinguished American poets of the 20th century. This poem is in sonnet form and was written in 1928. It describes the desire the writer has to be held, healed, calmed and lulled to sleep by the music she loves.

I am in need of music that would flow  
Over my fretful, feeling fingertips,  
Over my bitter-tainted, trembling lips,  
With melody, deep, clear, and liquid-slow.  
Oh, for the healing swaying, old and low,  
Of some song sung to rest the tired dead,  
A song to fall like water on my head,  
And over quivering limbs, dream flushed to glow!

There is a magic made by melody:  
A spell of rest, and quiet breath, and cool  
Heart, that sinks through fading colours deep  
To the subaqueous stillness of the sea,  
And floats forever in a moon-green pool,  
Held in the arms of rhythm and of sleep.

## **A Prayer**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very poorly Trevor, Isabelle, Lucy, Judy, Heather, Pat, Lorraine, Sue, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Derek, John and Maria.

## **RIP**

Vice-Admiral Rory McLean, Anthony Acland and Neil Tomlinson; and all those who have died from Coronavirus.

## **Our Coronavirus Prayer**

God of love,  
We ask for your blessing on  
those who are ill,  
those who are vulnerable  
those who are worried about  
themselves and those they love,  
and on those who mourn.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With best wishes and prayers, Cortland



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