



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

Dear Friends,

As ever the Tower makes us sit up and think; did you know this?

'Jews and the Medieval Tower of London.'

'World-famous as a royal fortress and prison, the Tower of London is also one of the most substantial standing remains of medieval England's Jewish history. From the mid-twelfth century to the expulsion of the Anglo-Jewry in 1290, the Tower was both a place of imprisonment and of refuge for hundreds of Jews. The Constable of the Tower had sole authority to arrest and imprison the London Jewry and even Jews arrested elsewhere in the country were normally transferred to the Tower. Yet, the Constable was also charged with protecting the city's Jews during pogroms and the Jewish community even helped defend the castle from a siege by rebel barons in 1267. This two-year project explores the Tower's central place in this complex story of coercion and coexistence.

Building on prior research on the Tower's Jewish history by former HRP curators Drs Sally Dixon-Smith and Jeremy Ashbee, this project further explores the Jewish prisoners, sanctuary-seekers, and staff of the medieval Tower. The main aims are to create a catalogue of the surviving archival sources for Jews in London or the Tower in the medieval period and a dataset of Jewish prisoners, refugees, and staff at the Tower from c.1189 to 1290'.

The service for Ash Wednesday will be on 2nd March 2022 in The White Tower at 1900hrs.

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

**Sunday Service Details
20th February 2022**

Sexagesima

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

Readings

Genesis 2: 4b-9.
Luke 8: 22-25.

Collect for Sexagesima

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in anything that we do; Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Save the date
HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Concert on April 28th, 2022



As part of our celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there will be a concert here in the chapel on April 28th. Tickets will be available from the 28th February on the HRP website.

Poem of the week for Valentine's Day, 14th February 2022

History is somewhat uncertain as to who exactly Valentine was, but there are numerous accounts of martyrdom in the third century and, according to an early tradition, St Valentine restored the sight to the blind daughter of his jailer, thus enabling her to get married. Legend has it that he wrote to her and signed the letter 'Your Valentine'.

Valentine is a poem by Carol Ann Duffy, the former Poet Laureate. In her words, 'The poem was written for radio, and as I wrote it there was a basket of onions on the kitchen table. A couple of years after writing the poem, a reader sent me a lovely watercolour based on the poem, but what made me smile, was that the word onion had been translated to opinion – some would argue an improvement?'

Valentine

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.
It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.
It promises light
like the careful undressing of love.

Here.
It will blind you with tears
like a lover.
It will make your reflection
A wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.
Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,
possessive and faithful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.
Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring,
if you like.
Lethal.
Its scent will cling to your fingers,
cling to your knife.

Carol Ann Duffy b.1955

Our Congregation

The Royal Military Police attended the Chapel service this Sunday 13th February.
Follow the link below to complete a jigsaw of the Pipers.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1f984bc08255>



And following the service, Eloise Smith was baptised.



Historic Royal Palaces - Yeoman Warders Dinner



Last Wednesday evening the Yeoman Warders had their annual dinner, attended by the Constable and Governor of the Tower and some distinguished guests. Including Professor Sir Jonathan Stafford Nguyen-Van-Tam MBE.

Cowslips from St James' and Snowdrops from Tracy's garden



Prayers

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

RIP

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all those affected by the Omicron virus, both those ill at home and those in hospital.

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, Roger



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