



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

Dear friends,

It's always pleasant to share some good news, and Barbara and I are delighted at the arrival of our latest grandchild, Imogen Mary Hall, daughter of Richard and Erykah in Glasgow, and sister to Georgia and Freddie. It seems the time of the year for grandchildren, as we are off to Singapore on Tuesday to visit our other grandchildren, whom we haven't seen for quite some time. Family and friends are a blessing, and something we should always give thanks for and never take for granted. Last Sunday during Matins, we said A General Thanksgiving from the Book of Common Prayer, perhaps one of the most beautiful and well-crafted prayers in the whole of the BCP. 'Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness.....We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;.....'

Perhaps this is a prayer that you might want to look at in the Service Booklet or BCP, to learn and then use in those precious moments of thankfulness and gratitude.

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

Services Details, 22nd January 2023

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

Psalm

27: 1-11

Readings

Isaiah 9: 1-4.
Matthew 4: 12-23.

Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Charles Baudelaire was born in France in 1821 and, as well as being a noted poet, was also an essayist and art critic. He remains an important and prominent poet in French literature. It is thought that he may have seen an albatross when his father sent him on a voyage to Réunion, an island in the Indian Ocean, in 1841. The poem, translated here by Roy Campbell, uses the metaphor of an albatross, wantonly maltreated by sailors, to express Baudelaire's concern for the fate of the poet, or of anyone with a sensitive temperament, who feels a sense of separateness and alienation in a hostile society which cruelly mocks him. It's a sad poem, but one to savour and think about.

The Albatross

Sometimes for sport the men of loafing crews
Snare the great albatrosses of the deep,
The indolent companions of their cruise
As through the bitter vastitudes they sweep.

Scarce have they fished abroad these airy kings
When helpless on such unaccustomed floors,
They piteously droop their huge white wings
And trail them at their side like drifting oars.

How comical, how ugly, and how meek
Appears this soarer of celestial snows!
One, with his pipe, teases the golden beak,
One, limping, mocks the cripple as he goes.

The poet, like this monarch of the clouds,
Despising archers, rides the storm elate.
But, stranded on the earth to jeering crowds,
The great wings of the giant baulk his gait.

Charles Baudelaire 1821 -1867

Our Congregation



On Sunday 15th January, Benedikt Hurrell was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Thank you to the family for sending through this photograph of the special day.

Yeoman Warders

Last week, the Yeoman Warders swore their allegiance to HM The King. This photograph was taken inside the Yeoman Warders' Club after the ceremony.



The Royal Foundation of St Katharine in Limehouse – Candlemas Light and Sound Installation

Tower of London community are especially welcome to come to a special event at St Katharine's.

Sun 29th January – 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Come and see the buildings and grounds of The Royal Foundation of St Katharine and Yurt Cafe immersed in a unique artistic light projection accompanied by ambient DJ soundscapes.

The installation curated by artists Heena Song and Julian Hand will offer an exceptional interpretation of the Feast of Candlemas. Our impressive venues will host a selection of projections and music specially designed and produced for this event. There will be a ten-minute meditation each hour in the chapel on the theme.

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation, is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church and is a Christian holiday commemorating the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple. On Candlemas, Christians would traditionally bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. For Christians, these candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light and marked the midpoint of winter, halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

The artists will be live performing a combination of liquid light-based, analogue and digital visuals. The sites will be lit with an assortment of projectors employing various techniques and art forms ranging from classic liquid light, optokinetic projectors and experimental films to analogue video feedback projection techniques.

The Yurt Café will be open during the evening serving drinks and food.

Tickets are on a pay what you would like basis

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/candlemas-light-sound-installation-tickets-490584480387?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Tracy's Garden - Winter Jasmine



Jigsaw

Base Court at Hampton Court Palace.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1ab1de11975d>



Prayers

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

RIP

Albert Woods, John Critchley, Heather Whittingham and Peter Sawford.

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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