



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

HM Tower of London

Dear friends,



Advent Sunday has been and gone and, even though it's still November as I write this, we have started to open our Advent calendars. Last Sunday was a memorable and uplifting Advent Sunday service, full of appropriate readings, prayers and music. Advent speaks of 'Joy, Hope and Challenge': joy as we prepare for the birth of Christ at Christmas, hope as we expect His second coming and challenge as we all face the many personal and social difficulties which life can bring. Advent is a time of looking forward to the establishment of God's future kingdom of justice and peace on earth, when wars will cease and peace shall reign. As in Lent, we look forwards and not backwards in Advent.

You will have read in the newsletter these past weeks about the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury on the 11th December at our 11am service, when he will be our preacher. Please put this date in your diary and come along and join us. There will be mulled wine and Christmas nibbles after the service.

The State Carol Service is on 18th December and we are already filling up. If you plan to come, please let Debbie know ASAP.

Finally, this year there will not be a Midnight Mass at 1130pm on 24th December, but at 6pm instead. The Crib Service will take place at 4pm. There will be more about these Christmas services later.

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

Sunday Service Details for 4th December 2022 The Second Sunday in Advent

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

Psalm 72: 1-7

Readings

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Matthew 3: 1-12.

Collect for The Second Sunday in Advent

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury on Sunday 11th December 2022 at 1100am

On Sunday 11th December, the Archbishop of Canterbury will be our preacher. His visit would originally have been the finale of our 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations. We are delighted that the Archbishop is coming to join us. After the service, there will be an opportunity to meet and chat with him over mulled wine. Do put the date in your diary.

Poem of the week

Along with Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson is one of America's greatest poets. This poem 'This World is not Conclusion' is one that I particularly like. It's always important when reading her poems to read them slowly and to savour them; as well as to note that her punctuation and syntax are idiosyncratic and highly personal to her: sometimes a single word stands for a whole sentence. In this poem, particular attention needs to be given to the dashes – I believe they indicate a pause or a brief silence. The first four lines might well allude to angels, a subject very dear to me and appropriate at this season of the year. It's also interesting to explore how Emily Dickinson brings her own faith (about which she was always reticent) into this poem, which can also be seen as an exploration of our attitudes to death and to what awaits us beyond. See what you think.

This World is not Conclusion

This World is not Conclusion.
A Species stands beyond -
Invisible, as Music -
But positive, as Sound -
It beckons, and it baffles -
Philosophy, don't know -
And through a Riddle, at the last -
Sagacity, must go -
To guess it, puzzles scholars -
To gain it, Men have borne
Contempt of Generations
And Crucifixion, shown -
Faith slips - and laughs, and rallies -
Blushes, if any see -
Plucks at a twig of Evidence -
And asks a Vane, the way -
Much Gesture, from the Pulpit -
Strong Hallelujahs roll -
Narcotics cannot still the Tooth
That nibbles at the soul -

Emily Dickinson 1830-1886

Jigsaw

The Christmas decorations around the Tower – Henry VIII and his six wives.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3ef09c25b69e>



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, Peter, Izzy, Colin, Tom, and Florence.

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.

