



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

Dear Friends,

This week I am writing to seek your help. I am optimistic that as we go forward into 2022, things are going to get back to normal. I am hopeful that Covid will be something that we all just have to live with, in the same way that we have to live with coughs and colds. Our jabs and boosters will give us the protection to get on with life.

Since March 2020, and like most churches, we have had to draw down and make changes in the way we operate. However, the time has now come to be careful but positive, cautious but forward-thinking. As a result of the pandemic, we lost the help of several people who used to support us in the past with various tasks in the chapel, such as being **stewards, readers, coffee helpers, and flower arrangers**. We would now welcome new people to join these teams. The more people we have on each rota, the fewer times those people need to offer help. It might be that you are only available two or three times a year – that is fine. There is always support for those who feel that they need more experience.

Gill Howard has written about helping with **coffee and cake** after Sung Holy Communion (usually on the last Sunday of the month).

Readers at both the 0915 and 1100 services are always needed, as are **flower arrangers** (both men and women). The **stewards**, who perform a wonderful role in greeting people as they arrive at the chapel, would welcome additions to their team. Please do contact me if you would like to join any of these teams, or if you would like to know more first.

Finally, if you are a regular member of either congregation, we would like to issue you with a **Chapel Pass** to make getting into the Tower of London easier. Please bring along a passport photo with your name clearly printed on the back, give it to me, and Debbie will then get this organised.

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

Sunday Service Details

Sunday 23rd January 2022
Epiphany 3

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

Readings Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10.
Luke 4: 14-21.

Collect for Epiphany 3
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.

Platinum Jubilee Service of Choral Evensong

Followed by a toast to HM The Queen

3.30pm, Sunday 6th February 2022

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula



Please email TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk in advance to be added to the guest list, otherwise you will be denied entry.

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 and how to book them will be advertised very soon.



Happily, we are now able to re-instate coffee after the last 11.00 service of the month!

We need YOU! Would anyone like to join our happy band of volunteer coffee providers?

Your commitment would be no more than twice a year overseeing organising coffee and once or twice a year assisting the organiser. You do not have to be Bake's Off's star baker! A few home-baked cookies or tray bake squares are lovely and always appreciated but if you prefer to buy nice biscuits no one will judge you!

Please contact Gill at gillhoward10@gmail.com or Deborah.Corbett@hrp.org.uk

Poem

Claude McKay (Festus Claudius McKay) grew up in Jamaica before winning a scholarship to study in New York City in 1914. A prominent figure associated with the New York-based Harlem Renaissance, he wrote with pride about his African heritage, as well as about the struggles of living in a racist American society and his experiences of rural life in Jamaica. He also worked as a policeman in Kingston, Jamaica. His love poem *After the Winter* describes delight in nature and the warmth of springtime and summer after the cold.

After the Winter

Some day, when trees have shed their leaves
And against the morning's white
The shivering birds beneath the eaves
Have sheltered for the night,
We'll turn our faces southward, love,
Toward the summer isle
When bamboos spire the shafted grove
And wide-mouthed orchids smile.

And we will seek the quiet hill
Where towers the cotton tree,
And leaps the laughing crystal rill,
And works the droning bee.
And we will build a cottage there
Beside an open glade,
With black-ribbed blue-bells blowing near,
And ferns that never fade.

Claude McKay 1889-1948

Jigsaw

A frosty view of the Tower of London wharf and the river Thames

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2f1dcbb8be23>

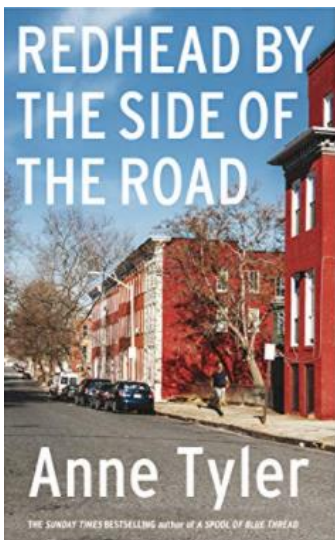


Historic Royal Palaces – Past and Present

A view of the Tower of London from 1904, and a selfie of the Yeoman Gaoler Rob Fuller and YW Darren Hardy taken yesterday on Tower Green for 'Museum Selfie Day'.



Book Review of *Redhead by the Side of the Road*, by Anne Tyler (2020)



Anne Tyler is a prize-winning American novelist and author of 23 books, most of them set in Baltimore. She chronicles the lives of ordinary people with humour and extraordinarily precise powers of observation, so that her characters are entirely convincing.

The protagonist of *Redhead by the Side of the Road* is Micah Mortimer, the afterthought baby in a family of noisy sisters, who runs a one-man computer-repair business and also works as caretaker of the slightly rundown building where he lives alone. His own daily domestic chores are strictly timetabled, to the affectionate amusement of his large family, and he takes the discipline of his habits (and his careful driving skills) extremely seriously. The book is a hugely enjoyable story about an entirely well-meaning character, whose often quirky struggles with life's challenges are both baffling and endearing. And it's often laugh-out-loud funny. As soon as I'd finished it, I wanted to reread it. Highly recommended by both Cortland and me.
Laura Fransella

Tracy's Garden – Winter Jasmine



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

Bill Rankin, Raymond Barrett and Graeme Wilson.

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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