



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

Dear friends,

I hope you have all been surviving this current unprecedented heat wave. Please do remember in your prayers those getting married at this time, as well as our services in the chapel.

I want to begin by thanking everyone who was involved in the Flower Festival. Fourteen beautiful and creative arrangements were seen by over 5,000 visitors in five days and clearly brought much pleasure to everyone who saw them. The Tower community also embraced the festival and I believe it offered another dimension to the experience of the life of the Tower of London. This festival concludes the chapel's celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Again, a very big thank you to Gill Howard and her team of helpers.

This will be the last newsletter until the first week in September. Services at the chapel finish this Sunday 24th July, with Holy Communion, followed by a glass of wine. There will also be the chance to look at the wonderful book of photographs taken of the chapel pilgrimage to Jordan, expertly put together by Linda Russell.

I hope that you all have a pleasant August, wherever you will be. Services restart on Sunday 4th September. During that month, we will be looking at our lists of rotas of people who help in the chapel. Please do consider offering your help and joining one of the teams.

With my warmest best wishes to you all, Roger.

Sunday Service Details
The Sixth Sunday after Trinity 24th July 2022

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula, followed by a glass of wine.

Readings

Romans 6: 3-11
Matthew 5: 20-26

Collect for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee
such good things as pass man's understanding;
Pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that
we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy
promises, which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Helene Johnson was an African-American poet who was active in the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural movement of the 1920s and 30s. She never knew her father, and her mother was the child of former slaves. Her work explores gender and race. 'Bottled', published in the magazine Vanity Fair in 1927, is one of her most famous poems. It's a powerful and dramatic monologue, written not in the author's voice but in that of a racially prejudiced and thoroughly bigoted white onlooker. (The word 'bozo' in the first stanza is a pejorative term, meaning a stupid or insignificant man.) The image, in the second stanza of the 'darky dressed fit to kill' and 'swirling a cane' on Seventh Avenue, dancing happily to the jazz of an organ grinder while everyone around, including the narrator, laughs at him, strikingly displays the onlooker's own sneering prejudice and ignorance. I've chosen the first two stanzas of the poem as illustrations, but you may wish to look online and read the complete poem, which has yet more powerful and shocking examples of the bigotry and intolerance of the time. Helene Johnson was a remarkable poet.

Bottled

Upstairs on the third floor
Of the 135th Street library
In Harlem, I saw a little
Bottle of sand, brown sand
Just like the kids make pies
Out of down at the beach.
But the label said: " This
Sand was taken from the Sahara desert. "
Imagine that! The Sahara desert!
Some bozo's been all the way to Africa to get some sand.

And yesterday on Seventh Avenue
I saw a darky dressed fit to kill
In yellow gloves and swallow tail coat
And swirling a cane. And everyone
Was laughing at him. Me too,
At first, till I saw his face
When he stopped to hear a
Organ grinder grind out some jazz.
Boy! You should a seen that darky's face!
It just shone. Gee, he was happy!
And he began to dance. No
Charleston or Black Bottom for him.
No sir. He danced just as dignified
And slow. No, not slow either.
Dignified and proud! You couldn't
Call it slow, not with all the
Cuttin' up he did. You would a died to see him.

Helene Johnson 1905-1995

Caption Competition!

Your Chaplain tidying up after the Flower Festival – send any captions in to Debbie and we'll publish them in the September newsletter.



Jigsaw

A goose morning (!) from Kensington Palace, and Peackocks and Pagodas at Kew Palace.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=154063adda00>

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3daf2e45d7ab>



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Deborah, Heather, Pat, Sue, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Judy, Dan, Derek, Ann and Peter.

RIP

Fr Funnell (former Military Chaplain) and Joan Craig.

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 and prayers, Roger.



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