



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

Dear friends,

On Monday a series of coincidences happened: an article in the paper I was reading coincided with a report on the radio I was listening to at lunchtime. Both were discussing Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, and Phillip Schofield. I have subsequently been thinking about my own reaction to the behaviour of these and other similar people.

In these days of public vitriol, a moment of criticism and judgement may offer a brief rush of satisfaction and self-righteousness. It might even make us feel vindicated when the person in question is publicly shamed. It seems to me, however, that that is not how a Christian community should behave. The church exists to worship God and serve others, but it should also demonstrate the reconciling love of God. Even in the Church, people sin against one another, but the response to grievances within the Church should look different from the world's; it's a response based upon reconciliation, not public shame.

I accept that there are limits to this teaching. Victims of abuse are not obliged to remain in a relationship with their abusers, unless they simply have no other option. For most of the other ways in which we harm each other in our day-to-day lives, Jesus offers this simple instruction: talk to one another. *Matthew 18: v15*.

Thank you very much to those of you who have brought items for the [City of London Hygiene Bank](#) which exists to fight hygiene poverty. These items are very gratefully received by those in need. The Hygiene Bank collects new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials of the sort we all use every day. If you need and use them, then it is likely that others will also need and use them. Do, please, keep those items coming in week by week. The collection box will be just inside the Chapel door.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 16th July RAF Regiment Association at the 11am service. It will be Chief Yeoman Warder Pete McGowan's last Sunday.

Wednesday 19th July 1830 Patronal Festival at St Peter ad Vincula. If you haven't already done so, please let Debbie know that you plan to come.

Sunday 23rd July The last Sunday before the summer break. Please stay for a glass of wine after church.

Sunday Service Details for 25th June 2023
The Third Sunday after Trinity

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

Readings

1 Peter 5: 5b-11
Luke 15: 1-10

Collect for The Third Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us:
and grant that we, to whom thou hast given an
hearty desire to pray, may by thy mighty aid
be defended and comforted in all dangers and
adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

William Shakespeare needs no introduction. This short poem or song, spoken by Ariel, is from The Tempest, Act V Scene 1. I have chosen it in celebration of the Summer Solstice, which is today, as I write this Newsletter. Shakespeare's songs often convey a feeling of half-forgotten images or memories; they are often very simple yet at the same time profound and stirring. One interesting point about this song is whether Shakespeare is implying that bats migrate. In fact, they do not, but the Elizabethans thought they did.

From The Tempest

Ariel. Where the bee sucks, there suck I:
In a cowslip's bell I lie;
There I couch when owls do cry;
On the bat's back I do fly
After summer merrily:
Merrily, merrily shall I live now
Under the blossom that hangs on the bough.

William Shakespeare 1564 – 1616

Our Congregation

On Sunday 18th June, Sylvie was Baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



The Tower of London

On Tuesday 20th June, the Tower hosted the HMS President Divisions Ceremony on the Broadwalk.



Jigsaw

On Saturday 17th June the HAC Regiment fired a 62 round gun salute at the Tower of London to celebrate His Majesty The King's Official Birthday. <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2aebb7f4ba6c>





Enjoying an icecream after a hard days visiting at the Tower!



Our Choir – Ailsa Campbell



Hi! Ailsa here, one of the sopranos in the Choir of Chapels Royal HM Tower of London. I'm currently living in South East London, and I grew up in Northumberland and began my singing career in Hexham Abbey Girls' Choir. I didn't enjoy it much when I started, but a few years in, at about 13, I remember singing Britten's Ceremony of Carols for the first time and thought, this singing thing is actually pretty exciting!

After school, I headed as far away as possible from the North to Bristol University to study music. A few of the highlights for me were being appointed the first female Choral Scholar at Bristol Cathedral and starting a conducting career by conducting the Music Society Chamber Choir. I then studied for a Masters in Solo Voice Ensemble Singing (I can explain the juxtaposition!) at the University of York. After finishing there in 2019, I moved to London to pursue singing.

To get myself on the scene, I started with Choral Scholarships at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Holy Sepulchre and St George's Bloomsbury. Now I sing regularly with groups such as the Corvus Consort, St Martin's Voices, and Siglo de Oro, and I enjoy bits of work with other groups and especially recording film soundtracks! I am also a Voces8 Scholar this year and work for their education and outreach programme by running workshops in schools across London.

I love early music and not only singing it; I work for Stour Music Festival, an early music festival in East Kent, over the last two weekends of June. My other side hustles include administration and marketing for the vocal ensemble I Fagiolini, composer Joanna Marsh, a Choral Scholarship in Manchester and another music festival (Whiddon Autumn Festival) in Devon. These, alongside the singing, keep me out of trouble! Outside of work, I have a daily yoga practice, love running and cycling around London (especially in this weather!), cross-stitching, visiting as many eateries as possible, and going out to see live music with my friends.

I feel incredibly fortunate to make a living through performing and music, and I get a lot from working to improve my 'craft'. It's often difficult to keep hope as it is a challenging time for this industry. Despite this, it's an absolute joy to make music, especially at the Tower, one of the most rewarding places I sing: We're challenged and have amazing opportunities both in the service repertoire and in the regular concerts we do. I feel I always walk away from Tower as a better musician, and also I'm often working with not only my colleagues, but my friends! I hope you enjoy listening to the music as much as we enjoy making it part of the service. Next time I'm in, please say hello!

Prayers

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

RIP

Andy Pegler and Geoff Oughton.

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 to all, Roger.



Canon Roger J Hall MBE
Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The King
1 Tower Green
HM Tower of London
EC3N 4AB
07908 413045
Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk
Twitter @RogerHall53