



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

Dear friends,

I am writing this having just returned from St George's Chapel Windsor, where I had the privilege of being part of the service of committal for our late Queen.

To be standing so close to the whole event, just to the right of the altar, surrounded by The King and his family, looking almost straight into the eyes of the Prince of Wales and being in a position almost to lean out and touch the Emblems of State, was, quite literally, spine-chilling. But perhaps the most moving moment of all was to watch the coffin slowly disappear into the crypt below. I felt a part of living history.

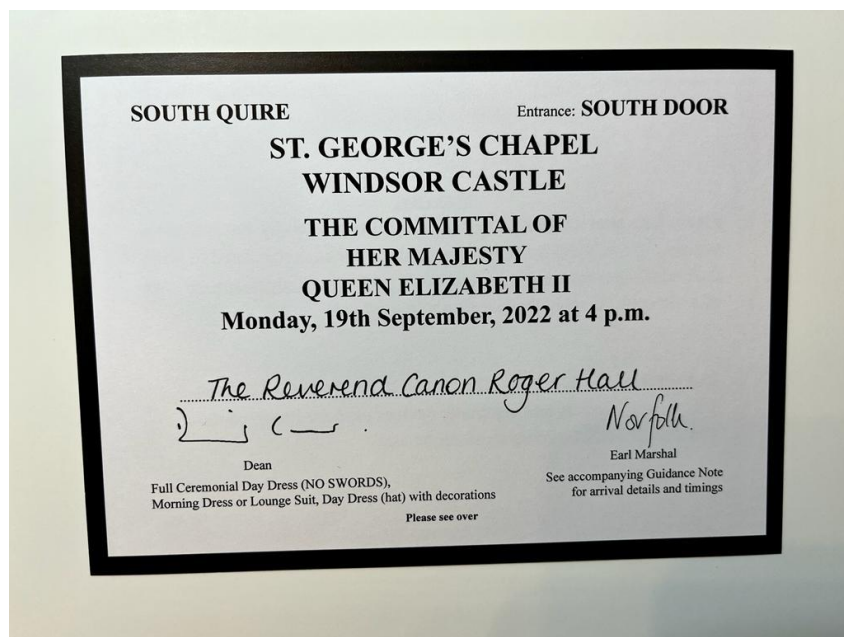
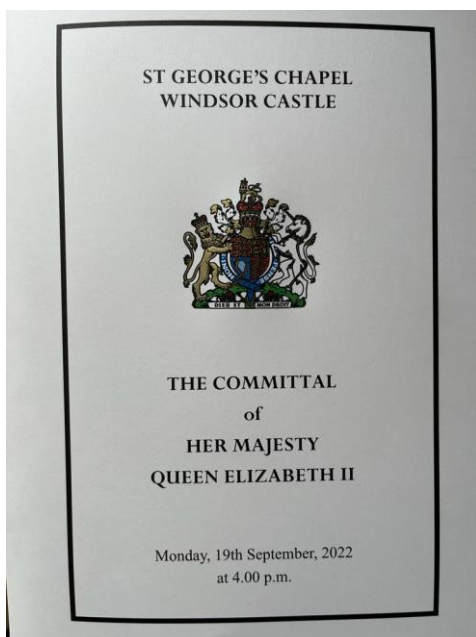
As we the clergy moved out, we stood in a line as all the Royal family passed by, including monarchs from across Europe. Prince George smiled, and the former Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (now Princess Beatrix) dropped her order of service, which I duly picked up and returned to her.

After ten days of national mourning, our nation gave the late Queen Elizabeth II a funeral fit for one of our greatest monarchs. We did it with dignity, the best of old-fashioned traditions and, above all, with a sense of love and immense gratitude.

The Queen is dead – long live The King!

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





Sunday Service Details – 25th September 2022

The 15th Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula – coffee after church

The Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Our Congregation

On Sunday 18th September, we had two Baptisms in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Below are Finley and Freddie with their families.



Poem of the week

The Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, has penned a poem to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Floral Tribute describes the coming of a September evening and the image of a lily of the valley as a token of thanks, as it was one of the Queen's favourite flowers. The beautiful white bloom, which featured in Her Majesty's coronation bouquet in 1953, is a permanent feature of the floral displays at Buckingham Palace. Elegant and hardy, it has dark green leaves, bell-shaped, fragrant flowers, and is famed for being relatively easy to grow.

In the poem, Simon Armitage employs the form of a double acrostic, using the first letter of each line to spell out Elizabeth. He uses the metaphor of a lily to represent both the poem and the Queen, writing: 'This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.' Earlier, he has said: 'The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands, Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.' He has already paid homage to 'a promise made and kept for life – that was your gift...'

Floral Tribute

Evening will come, however determined the late afternoon,

Limes and oaks in their last green flush, pearled in September mist.

I have conjured a lily to light these hours, a token of thanks,

Zones and auras of soft glare framing the brilliant globes.

A promise made and kept for life – that was your gift –

Because of which, here is a gift in return, glovewort to some,

Each shining bonnet guarded by stern lance-like leaves.

The country loaded its whole self into your slender hands,

Hands that can rest, now, relieved of a century's weight.

Evening has come. Rain on the black lochs and dark Munros.

Lily of the Valley, a namesake almost, a favourite flower

Interlaced with your famous bouquets, the restrained

Zeal and forceful grace of its lanterns, each inflorescence

A silent bell disguising a singular voice. A blurred new day

Breaks uncrowned on remote peaks and public parks, and

Everything turns on these luminous petals and deep roots,

This lily that thrives between spire and tree, whose brightness

Holds and glows beyond the life and border of its bloom.

Simon Armitage, b. 1963

Jigsaw

Union Flags by Buckingham Palace - <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=29e50ff39b35>



Jigsaw

Flowers at Green Park - <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=36f14c81b352>



Prayers

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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