



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

Dear Friends,

I hope that you and those dear to you have survived Storm Eunice and her relatives.

In case you may have missed it, I would like to draw your attention to a series of programmes on BBC Radio 4 at 1.30pm on Sundays, also available at any time on BBC Sounds. The series is called 'The Archbishop Interviews.' In each episode Archbishop Justin Welby speaks with someone who has made a significant contribution to public life about what they believe. He also talks honestly and openly about his own faith, so that it is more of a dialogue than a one-way interview. I listened to the first episode on Sunday 20 February, which featured the Turkish/British writer Elif Shafak and I found it a rich and moving experience. Future guests include the scientist Susan Blackmore and former Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose then spokesman Alastair Campbell famously (notoriously?) said, in answer to a question about Blair's faith, "We don't do God." A topic which came up in the Elif Shafak programme is the tension between faith and doubt. The 19th Century Spanish writer Miguel de Unamuno said, "Faith which does not doubt is dead faith"; while the great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevski put it like this, "It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt." You may disagree with these thoughts, but I suspect that the theme will resurface in this radio series. I commend it to you, and you can listen to it by following this link. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0014p3n>

Best wishes and blessings to you all,

Cortland.

Sunday Service Details
27 February 2022, Quinquagesima

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula (Coffee after church)

Readings

1 Corinthians 13:1-end
Luke 18:31-end

The Collect for Quinquagesima

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send thy Holy Ghost and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 02 March

There will be a service of Holy Communion with Ashing at 7.00pm in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower.



Save the date

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Concert on 28 April 2022



As part of our celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there will be a concert here in the Chapel Royal on Thursday 28th April. Tickets will be on sale on the HRP website on Monday 28th February 2022.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/platinum-jubilee-concert/#gs.psqv4w>

Please follow the link above to purchase tickets. HRP Member's pre-sale tickets sold out quickly. So, we recommend purchasing your ticket on Monday 28th February, the day they are on sale, to avoid disappointment.

Poem of the week: *Tidal* by R S Thomas

Ronald Stuart Thomas was born in Cardiff in 1913, the son of a sea captain. He was educated at University College of North Wales and later undertook theological training at St Michael's College in Cardiff. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1936.

During his time as a rector he began to write poetry and verse. His writing career continued for fifty years, during which time he produced twenty volumes of poetry, was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1964 and nominated for a Nobel Prize in 1995. Whilst religion was one of the major themes of his work, he also wrote about nature and about Welsh history. His most famous work is *A Peasant*, a poem that depicts a typical rural worker in the hills of Wales. Thomas enjoyed working in the countryside and spent his whole time as a clergyman working in rural parishes. He retired in 1978 and died at the age of 87 on 25 September 2000. His poem *Tidal* addresses issues of faith and doubt.

Tidal.

The waves run up the shore
and fall back. I run
up the approaches to God
and fall back. The breakers return,
reaching a little further,
gnawing away at the main land.
They have done this thousands
of years, exposing little by little
the rock under the soil's face.

I must imitate them only
in my return to the assault,
not in their violence. Dashing
my prayers at him will achieve
little other than the exposure
of the rock under the surface.

My returns must be made
on my knees. Let despair be known
as my ebb-tide; but let prayer
have its springs, too, brimming,
disarming him; discovering somewhere
among his fissures deposits of mercy
where trust may take root and grow.

Historic Royal Palaces – Superbloom update

Many of you have been asking if HRP made any new discoveries in the moat during the Superbloom preparations. During the construction phase, HRP have been working closely with mudlarkers to sift through the soil excavated from the moat whilst protecting the area's archaeological sensitivity.

Here's HRP's Assistant Curator Alfred Hawkins to show you some of the things we've found...

<https://fb.watch/bjtDtgXoSq/>

Jigsaw

If you are feeling adventurous - one of the entrances for the new Superbloom display in the summer will be a large slide from Tower Hill down into the moat!

Below is an artist's impression of your view as you whizz down into the moat, which will be filled with wildflowers.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=108bdf20abf6>



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.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all those affected by Coronavirus.

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, Cortland.



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