



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

Dear Friends,

I am writing this just a couple of days before a small group of us set out for Jordan, visiting places that we have all read about in the Bible and which will, we hope, be brought to life in a meaningful way. Lots of photographs will be taken and a report of our trip will be in the Newsletter.

This coming Sunday is **Mothering Sunday**. Whilst Cortland and I are both away, I am delighted that The Venerable Roger Preece has agreed to take both the 0915 and 1100 services. I am sure that you will support him with your presence if you possibly can.

I'm certain that you, like me, are absolutely delighted that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe has at last been released from detention, along with Anoosheh Ashoori. We all hope that the families will find the peace and quiet they now need to begin to put their lives back together. Our thoughts are also constantly with the people of Ukraine and we pray fervently that there will be a swift end to the war and to the mindless and brutal killing.

There are good things to look forward to during Holy Week and Easter. On **Maundy Thursday** the Bishop of London (Bishop Sarah) will be with us and on **Good Friday**, our devotions will centre on Fauré's *Requiem*. The orchestra will be here with us on **Easter Sunday** as we celebrate the Resurrection.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

Sunday Service Details
Fourth Sunday in Lent – Mothering Sunday

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

Readings:

Isaiah 49:13-18
Matthew 23:37-39

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God,
that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished,
by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Easter Flowers
Easter Sunday 17th April 2022

For some years we have collected money throughout Lent for flowers for Easter and often for a few Sundays after that. If you would like to donate towards these flowers, please send a cheque payable to **The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation**. Cash is also acceptable. Your donation can be in memory of someone. Thank you.



Passion Sunday 3rd April – BBC Radio 4 – The Morning Service 8.10am

Please do listen to the Morning Service on Radio 4 at 0810 on 3rd April which will come from the Tower or catch up with it later on BBC Sounds.

Along with thinking about Passion Sunday, the service follows part of Radio 4's theme of Matthew, chapter 25. On this Sunday, we will dwell on the words: 'When I was in prison, you visited me'.

Choral Evensong will also come from the Chapel on **Wednesday 13th April on BBC Radio 3 at 3pm**. Again, you can catch up with it on BBC Sounds.

Poem of the week

I am very grateful to Laura Fransella who reminded me of this poem as we stood at the church door on Sunday. Gerard Manley Hopkins, or GMH as he is often referred to, was a poet and Jesuit priest, now considered amongst the leading Victorian poets of the day. Although he began life as an Anglican, he converted and became a Roman Catholic at the age of 22. Very few of his poems saw the light of day until after his death at the age of 44, when his friend Robert Bridges began to publish his poems. He lived out the last part of his life in Dublin.

Spring

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889)

Daffodils by the main entrance of the Tower.



The Chaplain with his grandchildren on Red Nose Day



Historic Royal Palaces - Superbloom Update

Work continues in the Tower moat. The first seeds will start being planted in the moat at the end of March.



Our Congregation

On Sunday 20th March Ben Cooper was Baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Jigsaw



This week's jigsaw is of Poppy the Raven. Taken by White Tower warden Sana.
<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=07238d36de3a>

Prayers

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

RIP Beryl Hale

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

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.**

A Prayer 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



Canon Roger J Hall MBE
Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM the Queen
HM Tower of London
07908 413045
Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk
Twitter @RogerHall53