



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

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is Advent Sunday and the birthday of the church. On Advent Sunday we will light the first of our Advent candles and we begin our preparations for Christmas. On Sunday we will have our traditional Advent Carol service with wonderful readings, hymns, and anthems from the choir – do think about coming and joining us as part of your preparations for celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas.

The poem below also picks up this Advent theme.

With fond wishes and prayers for you all, Roger.

**Sunday Service Details**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Advent carol Service**

0915 Holy Communion (White Tower)  
1100 Advent Carol Service (St Peter ad Vincula)

**Collect for Advent Sunday**

**Almighty God**, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

**Christmas Services**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

0915 Holy Communion (Chapel of St John the Evangelist)  
1100 Christmas State carol Service

**(please email Debbie in advance to be added to the guest list)**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

1600 Carols around the Crib  
1800 First Mass of Christmas

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

1000 Choral Matins

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

1100 Said Holy Communion

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

No Services

## Thought for the Day

From Canon Roger Hall

<https://youtu.be/TYVqNoSfVQg>

## Poem

This short poem by George Herbert, first published in 1633, is the call of the poet to God but also, the poet's response to God's call. As such, it is not an Advent poem, but the repetition of the word 'Come' reminds us of the hymn 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' which many parishes start singing on the first Sunday in Advent.

*The Call* is composed almost completely of words of one syllable and this makes its heartfelt appeal simple and direct. We recognise the reference from St John's Gospel to Jesus as the 'the way, the truth and the life', although Herbert has personalised this with the word '*my*'.

In the second verse, we are reminded of Christ as the light of the world and as living bread, although we are all invited to the feast that is forever on offer to us as guests.

In the final stanza, we are immersed in the joy and completeness of divine love. It is no wonder that this poem has been set to music several times, notably by Ralph Vaughan Williams in his 'Five Mystical Songs'.

### **The Call by George Herbert**

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;  
Such a Way as gives us breath,  
Such a Truth as ends all strife,  
Such a Life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;  
Such a Light as shows a Feast,  
Such a Feast as mends in length,  
Such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;  
Such a Joy as none can move,  
Such a Love as none can part,  
Such a Heart as joys in love.

George Herbert 1593 - 1633

## Jigsaw

Lord Mayors Show featuring YW Darren Hardy and YW Gary Thynne.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=046db960506c>



## Tower of London – Superbloom

Come and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen at the Tower of London, where a spectacular, colourful, vibrant field of flowers will fill and transform the Tower’s moat.

In spring 2022, over 20 million seeds will be sown in the moat from carefully designed seed mixes. From June to September, the flower display will erupt into new colours and patterns creating a dramatic and engaging experience.



Designed to attract pollinators, ‘Superbloom’ will bring a spectacular natural beauty to the urban space and introduce a new biodiverse habitat for wildlife. It will celebrate the value of nature for our wellbeing. Visitors can wander along a weaving path into the centre of the flowers. A specially commissioned sound installation and sculptural elements will draw visitors in and make you feel at home amongst the bees and butterflies. Take a moment to slow down and experience the nature that surrounds you.

**Tickets will be on sale from Monday 06 December 2021.**

## Inside the Tower – Channel 5

A reminder the latest episode of Inside the Tower is on this evening at 8pm on Channel 5. Catch up with the latest goings on at the Tower of London. You can also watch previous episodes on My5.



## A Prayer

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

## RIP

We remember all those whom we love but see no more, and those refugees who have died attempting to cross the Channel.

## **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, Roger



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