



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

Dear friends,

This coming Sunday is Whitsunday, also known as Pentecost, and there will be a State Parade in the chapel. The Constable, the Chief Yeoman Warder, the Gaoler and the Yeoman Warders will be in attendance and the service will also, notably, be the last State Parade in which the Chief Yeoman Warder, Pete McGowran, will take part. Pete spent several years as Chapel Clerk and as such, has come to know many members of the chapel community. He has also featured very prominently in the Channel 5 series *Inside the Tower of London*. We shall miss his constant support and cheery manner very much, and wish Pete and Debbie every happiness in their well-deserved retirement when they leave the Tower in July.



Whitsunday, or Pentecost, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem. For this Sunday alone, the colours of the altar cloths and vestments change to red, reminding us of fire and blood; the tongues of fire represent the Holy Spirit poured down upon those first apostles, which gave them the vigour and enthusiasm to go out and preach the Gospel.



This year marked the 100th anniversary of the **Lilies and Roses Service**, held annually in the Wakefield Tower on May 21st. This is when we commemorate the death of Henry VI on May 21st 1471. Two scholars, one from Eton College and the other from King's College Cambridge, (both of which were founded by Henry VI), lay lilies and roses on the spot believed to be where the king was murdered. It is always a solemn and moving ceremony, with the choir in attendance.

Chapel Passes: I am very pleased that many of you now have a chapel pass. If you don't have one yet, then please bring in a passport photograph with your name clearly written on the reverse side, and Debbie will organise a pass for you. Those who do have a pass find it much easier getting into the Tower on a Sunday morning.

Please note that the London Bike Ride on Sunday, May 28th will lead to the closure of many roads and bridges around the Tower and severe travel disruption is likely.

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

Lilies and Roses – 100 years



Sunday Service Details 28th May 2023
Whitsunday or Pentecost

0915 Holy Communion White Tower
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula (State Parade)

Readings Acts 2: 1-11 and John 14: 15-31a

Collect for Whitsunday

God, who as at this time didst teach the
hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending
to them the light of thy Holy Spirit;
Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right
judgment in all things; and evermore to rejoice
in his holy comfort; through the merits
of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and
reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same
Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Poem

Dr. Catriona Clutterbuck was born in County Tipperary in 1964. She began life as a primary school teacher before completing a doctorate at Oxford and then lecturing on Irish literature at University College, Dublin. Her poems have been published in many collections and anthologies and she was the winner of the 1995 Richard Ellmann Prize as well as the 2005 Start Poetry Chapbook Competition. The poem I have chosen this week, *The Dry Mouth*, won the Oxford Poetry Competition in 1994, judged by Seamus Heaney, and is a thoughtful short poem reflecting upon those dry moments we all have!

The Dry Mouth

There was my brother and me
bringing eight heifers home
from Modeshil for the mart
the day before I left for England.

We came to cloudy black sloes
in the green branches above us,
'Can you eat these?' I asked.
'Do you remember nothing at all', he said,
'from when you were a child?'

So I bit and got a dry mouth
that I'd forgotten for years.
I sucked it over the Island's bridge,
the road bright in the sun, the leaves still on.

I put three berries in my pocket.
I knew this morning would come,
lying in a new bed after dawn,
sloes nuggeting in my mind
against the dry mouth.

Catriona Clutterbuck b.1964

Ride London road closures – Sunday 28th May

Sunday (28th May) will see the return of Ride London to the capital and Essex. Ride London was established in 2013 by the Mayor of London as a legacy event from the 2012 Olympics, which saw Team GB dominate the medal table in cycling. The event will see 25,000 cyclists of all backgrounds and abilities cover 100 miles on traffic-free roads through the heart of London and neighbouring Essex. As a result, road closures will be in place on various routes:

Roads Closed – 04:00-19:30

Upper Thames Street, Lower Thames Street, Byward Street, Tower Hill, East Smithfield, The Highway, Aspen Way, Limehouse Link Tunnel, East India Dock Tunnel & Tower Bridge.

A vehicle crossing point will be in place on The Highway at Glamis Road but this will be closed between 05:55-10:00

Road closures will also be in place for various roads in East London and out into Essex, including the A12 between Bow Roundabout and Redbridge Roundabout at the A406.

For full details, please visit <https://www.ridelondon.co.uk/>

Star of Bethlehem from Tracy's Garden



Flower Show

Roger and Barbara at the Chelsea





Jigsaw

The Procession forming up outside the Kings House

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2ffe9db51c6d>



Our Choir – Tom Perkins



As a member of the choir here at the Tower of London for a little over a year now, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me and for the first-class music making I am a part of every week. I have sung at some of London's top churches including Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral and even though the chapel here at the Tower may not be as grand, the history and surroundings of the chapel make it such a special place to sing.

As well as singing at the Tower I also sing across London working with some of the UK's top vocal ensembles and church choirs. I am a regular member of St Martin's Voices at St Martin-in-the-Fields where we present a rich programme of concerts, services and broadcasts every week. As well as singing in London I am lucky enough to spend a large proportion of my time abroad on tour and always look forward to my next trip away!

Aside from singing I also work as a freelance recording engineer and producer and to date have produced recordings for Classic FM, BBC Radio, St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Church of England. It's always interesting to approach

what we do from a different perspective, and this certainly does change the way I approach singing and can sometimes be a welcome release from performing.

Despite all this, one of the best parts of my week is walking through the Tower on a Sunday morning in absolute peace and quiet and getting to sing with such talented musicians and friends and I look forward to continuing this and to contributing to the life of the Tower.

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, Bridget and Veronica.

RIP

Revd Canon Nigel Graham.

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.



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