



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

Dear friends,

As many of you will know, we have just ended the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which ran from the 18th to the 25th of January. We were therefore especially pleased to have with us last Sunday 22nd January members of the [Community of St Anselm](#), based in Lambeth Palace. These young people, who 'spend a year with God' as members of the Community, come from different continents and different Christian denominations. Their spell at Lambeth Palace often constitutes the first time that they have actually met people from other Christian traditions, whom they may have been brought up to regard with suspicion. The months that they spend living in community, studying together, praying together and working in local charities together give them an extraordinary opportunity to learn about other expressions of Christianity from those with which they are familiar. None of them leaves at the end of their academic year without having gained a new appreciation of what we can learn from one another, as well as a respect for other Christian traditions. Some later enter various forms of Church ministry, whilst others will go into secular employment, but all emerge enriched by the experience. It was a pleasure and a privilege for us to have them with us last Sunday. Their example may inspire us all to approach Christians from other traditions with an open mind.

With my best wishes and prayers for you all, Cortland.

Services Details, 29th January 2023 - Candlemas

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

Readings

Hebrews 2:14 – end
Luke 2:22 – 40

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright;
Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers,
and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Picking up once more the theme of Christian unity, our poem this week is by John Donne, who came from a Roman Catholic family but spent the last ten years of his life as the Anglican Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. He wrote much poetry, some of it entirely secular and often bluntly erotic but he also composed many striking verse expressions of his strong Christian faith. As he was dying, he wrote this, one of his best-known pieces. In it, he plays on the custom of sending to know who had died when the passing-bell was rung from a nearby church, maybe simply out of idle curiosity. Donne would not have heard of the Southern African concept of ubuntu - a concept in which our sense of self is shaped by our relationships with other people - often encapsulated in the expression, 'I am because we are.' Nevertheless there is something of that sense in this poem which stresses the fact that we are all component members of humankind. The final stanza is a ringing warning against excessive individualism and an exhortation to see ourselves as interdependent on one another.

No Man Is an Island

No man is an island,
Entire of itself;
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.

If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less,
As well as if a promontory were:
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were.

Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind.
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

John Donne 1572-1631

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine in Limehouse – Candlemas Light and Sound Installation

The Tower of London community are especially welcome to come to a special event at St Katharine's.

Sun 29th January – 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Come and see the buildings and grounds of The Royal Foundation of St Katharine and Yurt Cafe immersed in a unique artistic light projection accompanied by ambient DJ soundscapes.

The installation curated by artists Heena Song and Julian Hand will offer an exceptional interpretation of the Feast of Candlemas. Our impressive venues will host a selection of projections and music specially designed and produced for this event. There will be a ten-minute meditation each hour in the chapel on the theme.

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation, is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church and is a Christian holiday commemorating the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple. On Candlemas, Christians would traditionally bring their candles to their local church, where they are blessed and then used for the rest of the year. For Christians, these candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light and marked the midpoint of winter, halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

The artists will be live performing a combination of liquid light-based, analogue and digital visuals. The sites will be lit with an assortment of projectors employing various techniques and art forms ranging from classic liquid light, optokinetic projectors and experimental films to analogue video feedback projection techniques.

The Yurt Café will be open during the evening serving drinks and food.

Tickets are on a pay what you would like basis

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/candlemas-light-sound-installation-tickets-490584480387?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=24c95ba4cf51>



Object of the month

This month we are celebrating the reign of Queen Victoria, who died January 22 1901, aged 81. Queen Victoria was on the throne for 63 years and 216 days; we've chosen some objects from HRP's collections that highlight some of the memorable moments of her life.

Childhood



Pencil drawing of Queen Victoria aged 3 by Lady Elizabeth Keith Heathcote (nee Lindsey). The drawing shows a young Princess Victoria in a playful pose, riding a chair, holding a crop.

This drawing is one of a series of 12 executed by Lady Elizabeth during the Princess's stay with her mother at the seaside village of Ramsgate in 1822.

Lady Elizabeth had studied under Gainsborough and was a talented amateur artist. Her only daughter, Elizabeth Anne was five months younger than Princess Victoria and the two played together as children. 3004269

Coronation



Fragment of textile from the Coronation Robe of Queen Victoria. A Spitalfields gold tissue, woven with the national emblems of a rose, thistle and shamrock, interspersed with fleurs-de-lys, open crowns and eagles.

Queen Victoria later wrote her thoughts about her coronation in her journal:

'After putting on my Mantle, and the young ladies having properly got hold of it, and Lord Conyngham holding the end of it, I left the robing-room and the Procession began [...] The sight was splendid [...] At the beginning of the Anthem where I've made a mark, I retired to St. Edward's Chapel [...] took off my crimson robe and kirtle and put on the Supertunica of Cloth of Gold, also in the shape of a kirtle, which was put over a singular sort of little gown of linen trimmed with lace.' 3501326

Mourning



Queen Victoria's black silk mourning bodice, circa 1872-5. The bodice has embroidered buttons from neck to waist and the front panels are edged with jet beads, with long chenille fringes at the bottom.

Queen Victoria was devastated by the death of Prince Albert in December 1861. She entered a state of mourning and wore black for the rest of her life. She was nicknamed 'The Widow of Windsor' due to her self-imposed isolation at Windsor Castle.

It is likely she wore this during her second decade of mourning Prince Albert. 3503946

Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Pat, Ann, Ros, Mark, Madeleine, Dan, Derek, Johnny, Colin, Ian, Patti and Florence.

RIP

Albert Woods, John Critchley, Heather Whittingham and Peter Sawford.

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, Cortland.



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