



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

Dear Friends,

Those who were at the Chapel for Evensong on Ascension Day were able to take part afterwards in the Beating of the Bounds. This is an Anglo-Saxon custom which involved whacking local boundary-markers with branches or sticks to maintain in the local community a shared mental map of parish borders. Traditionally, this was done every seven years, possibly because that represented a new 'generation' of children who needed to have the memory impressed on them.

The Tower Liberties area surrounding the Tower of London and the neighbouring parish of All Hallows have kept the custom for over seven centuries, both traditions now taking place on the same day every three years. When the two processions of bound-beaters meet, they take part in a mock confrontation commemorating a riot that happened on one unfortunate occasion in 1698. Thus it was that, on Ascension Day 2022, the Governor made a symbolic challenge to our neighbours at All Hallows by the Tower, who responded in kind. A brawl did not ensue. Following the Chaplain, a merry band of local schoolchildren led the choir and the rest of us as we went on to beat our remaining boundary markers. One such marker is, appropriately enough, outside the Liberty Bounds pub at the corner of Trinity Square.

In mediaeval times, the children enlisted to beat boundary-markers were sometimes themselves beaten, to drive the message home. Luckily, we live in more enlightened times.



Historic Royal Palaces posted a video of the Beating of the Bounds on their Twitter account – please follow the link below to view. It is brilliant to see the local school children and the Tower children getting so involved.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1529908115663114243>

The coming weekend will mark the extraordinary achievement of seventy years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. However we celebrate it, we shall be giving thanks for her years of service, faithful not only to her people but also to her God - our God. In the words from the Book of Common Prayer which we use each week, “Endue her plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant her in health and wealth long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies; and finally, after this life, she may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” God save the Queen!

With all good wishes,  
Cortland.

**Sunday Service Details**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Whit Sunday State Parade**

0915am Holy Communion (*Chapel of St John the Evangelist*)  
1100am Holy Communion, Whit Sunday State Parade (*Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula*)

**Readings**

Acts 2:1-21 and John 14: 8-1

**The Collect**

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: *Patience Strong* by U A Fanthorpe (1978)**

A couple of weeks ago ([Newsletter, 19 May](#)) I included a poem by [U A Fanthorpe](#). A number of readers said that they enjoyed her quirky style, so I thought that I'd include another one here. You may remember that U A Fanthorpe really began writing poems when she became a secretary in a psychiatric hospital. Something of a theme in her work is the need not to allow our prejudices to colour how we see other people or their tastes. For those unfamiliar with the work of 'Patience Strong', real name [Winifred Emma May](#) (1907-1990), her poems have been sympathetically described as 'usually short, simple and imbued with sentimentality, the beauty of nature and inner strength.' U A Fanthorpe reminds us that, whatever we think of them in literary terms, those little poems can be significant to others.

Everyone knows her name. Trite calendars  
Of rose-nooked cottages or winding ways  
Display her sentiments in homespun verse  
Disguised as prose. She has her tiny niche  
In women's magazines too, tucked away  
Among the recipes or near the end  
Of some perennial serial. Her theme  
Always the same: rain falls in every life,  
But rainbows, bluebirds, spring, babies or God  
Lift up our hearts. No doubt such rubbish sells.  
She must be feathering her inglenook.  
Genuine poets seldom coin the stuff,  
Nor do they flaunt such aptly bogus names.  
Their message is oblique; it doesn't fit  
A pocket diary's page; nor does it pay.

One day in epileptic out-patients,  
A working-man, a fellow in his fifties,  
Was feeling bad. I brought a cup of tea.  
He talked about his family and job:  
His dad was in the Ambulance Brigade;  
He hoped to join, but being epileptic,  
They wouldn't have him. *Naturally*, he said,  
*With my disease, I'd be a handicap.*  
*But I'd have liked to help.* He sucked his tea,  
Then from some special inner pocket brought  
A booklet muffled up in cellophane,  
Unwrapped it gently, opened at a page –  
Characteristic cottage garden, seen  
Through chintzy casement windows. Underneath  
Some cosy musing in the usual vein.  
*And see*, he said, *this is what keeps me going.*

From U A Fanthorpe 'Side Effects' Peterloo (1978)

## Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival Crown, Coronation, Commonwealth

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
Free to visit as a Tower of London ticket holder throughout the day



Regular members of our congregation are invited to attend an  
**Evening Viewing of the Flower Festival and drinks reception**  
in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

on

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
7pm**

Limited availability

Please email me on [TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk](mailto:TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk) to be added  
to the guest list

## **Jigsaw**

The Superbloom slide into the Tower moat, tested out by your Chapel Administrator. It's very fun, but very fast! So avoid if you have a bad back!

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1f0b2ad23a83>



## **Prayers**

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

We pray for all those who have died and especially for those who have met violent deaths, remembering especially innocent civilians in Ukraine and the teachers and children murdered in Uvalde, Texas.

May they rest in peace.

## **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 and prayers, Cortland.



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