



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

HM Tower of London

Dear friends,

This coming Sunday is Harvest Festival, which is always an opportunity to give thanks to God for the Harvest and to remember with thanksgiving all those things we sometimes take for granted. This year, we will not be collecting the usual Harvest produce.



Instead, we will continue to support the Tower Hamlets Food Bank financially and will also be supporting the UNHCR Appeal for Aid for the People of Pakistan affected by the floods. In other words, we will divide the proceeds from the collection on Sunday between both charities. Do please give generously. If by any chance produce is brought, please be assured we will make certain it goes to one of the local area Food Banks.

<https://www.firstlovefoundation.org.uk/>

<https://giving.unhcr.org/en/pakistan/>

The Chapel Community would like to welcome and congratulate the new Constable of the Tower of London, General Sir Gordon Messenger, and his family.

Next week, there will be a report and photographs of his Installation by the Lord Chamberlain, which will take place here at the Tower. We look forward to welcoming the new Constable and his wife to the chapel in due course.

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



You can watch the Installation of the 161st Constable of the Tower live on the Tower of London's Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/459166629499809?ref=newsfeed>



Sunday Service Details

17th Sunday after Trinity – 9th October 2022
Harvest Festival

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

Psalm 66

Readings

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7
Luke 17: 11-19

Collect for the 17th Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we pray thee that thy grace may always
prevent and follow us, and make us continually
to be given to all good works: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Poem of the week:

This week's poem is one known to many people and a perennial favourite. Sir John Betjeman, who was Poet Laureate from 1972 to 1984, is one of our best-known English poets. As he once said, 'I regard verse as the shortest and most memorable way of saying things – or rather, that is what I think it should be'. His poem 'Diary of a Church Mouse' is a highly appropriate poem for the season of Harvest. However, living as we do in a house where mice are so often seen about the place, Barbara and I are less sympathetic towards these small furry creatures!

Diary of a Church Mouse

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.
Lean and alone I spend my days
Behind this Church of England baize.
I share my dark forgotten room
With two oil-lamps and half a broom.
The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.
Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.
For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.
I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.

It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.
Two field mice who have no desire
To be baptized, invade the choir.
A large and most unfriendly rat
Comes in to see what we are at.
He says he thinks there is no God
And yet he comes ... it's rather odd.
This year he stole a sheaf of wheat
(It screened our special preacher's seat),
And prosperous mice from fields away
Come in to hear our organ play,
And under cover of its notes
Ate through the altar's sheaf of oats.
A Low Church mouse, who thinks that I
Am too papistical, and High,
Yet somehow doesn't think it wrong
To munch through Harvest Evensong,
While I, who starve the whole year through,
Must share my food with rodents who
Except at this time of the year
Not once inside the church appear.
Within the human world I know
Such goings-on could not be so,
For human beings only do
What their religion tells them to.
They read the Bible every day
And always, night and morning, pray,
And just like me, the good church mouse,
Worship each week in God's own house,
But all the same it's strange to me
How very full the church can be
With people I don't see at all
Except at Harvest Festival.

Sir John Betjeman, 1906–1984

Events in the Chapel

LOVE BADE ME WELCOME – MUSIC AND POETRY

Wednesday 19th October

Join us for a vibrant and colourful concert at St Peter ad Vincula of music inspired by words of George Herbert, Christopher Smart, James Stevens and Sara Teasdale.

Enjoy classic English choral favourites by Benjamin Britten and Ralph Vaughan Williams, alongside distinctive works by Erik Ešenvalds and Samuel Barber.

The concert also includes the world première of *A Necklace of Anne Boleyn Poems*, written and performed by poet Rachel Long. This sequence of poetry was commissioned by the Chapel as part of its 500th anniversary celebrations in 2020.

Tickets available at –

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/love-bade-me-welcome-music-and-poetry/#gs.e30bck>

Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=128e927b904b>



Prayers

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

RIP

John Swain

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, Roger.



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