



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

Dear friends,

This coming Sunday, the Third Sunday in Advent, we have the Archbishop of Canterbury coming to preach. Many of you may have seen him on the national news following his recent three-day visit to Ukraine, which clearly made a very deep impression on him. Given how busy he is, both nationally and internationally, we are very lucky to have him here with us on Sunday. Do please come along and support his visit.

I have included details below about arrangements over Christmas. We are now very close to being full for the State Carol Service at 11am on December 18th, so if you plan to come, do please let Debbie have your name as soon as possible.

I recently read this quotation from the late Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message of 1983, where, on the subject of technology, she said:

*'... even more serious is the risk that mastery of technology may blind us to the fundamental needs of people. Electronics cannot create comradeship; computers cannot generate compassion; satellites cannot transmit tolerance. I hope that Christmas will remind us all that it is not how we communicate but what we communicate with each other that really matters.'*

As we prepare for Christmas, what a very appropriate message this is during a difficult time of strikes, together with other issues about how we should behave towards each other.

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

**Service Details for Sunday December 11th  
The Third Sunday in Advent**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula  
**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula, with mulled wine after the service.

**Psalm** 146: 4-10.

**Readings**

Isaiah 35: 1-10  
Matthew 11: 2-11.

**Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent**

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming  
didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee:  
Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way,  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at thy second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight,  
who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**



## Christmas Services



**11th December 2022 - Advent 3**  
0915 Holy Communion  
1100 Choral Matins

**18th December 2022 - Advent 4**  
0915 Holy Communion  
1100 State Carol service

**24th December 2022 - Christmas Eve**  
1600 Crib Service  
1800 First Mass of Christmas

**25th December 2022 - Christmas Day**  
1000 Matins with Christmas carols followed Holy Communion

### Poem of the week

I recently came across Ivan Malkovych, who is a Ukrainian poet and publisher. Born in 1961, he completed his studies as a violinist at music college before studying philology at the Taras Shevchenko State University in Kyiv. He has been a member of the Writers' Union of Ukraine since 1986. Malkovych is the author of seven collections of poetry, which have been translated into a large number of languages, and has also written books for children. I found his poem Folk Scene very appropriate for this time of the year.

#### **Folk Scene**

On a heap amidst thistles  
On coal, soggy from rains, two angels dwell:

they wax each other's wings,  
they kiss each other's eyes.  
awaiting Christmas.

Near them - a lovely infant,  
and no one can guess  
who's guarding whom?

Is the infant guarding angels, or  
do white-winged ones watch the child,  
leaping, aiming for heaven?

What can white angels do  
on this black soil? crush coal  
or weep into blue skies?

Each angel would carry the baby  
into heaven's garden any moment,  
God does not will it.....

On a heap of discarded Christmas trees,  
and dirty orange peels, on the frozen grass -

two angels and an infant  
clutching a Christmas carol in its fist,  
Christmas has gone.

**Ivan Malkovych b. 1961**

## Our Chapel Flower team

A huge thank you to the Chapel flower team for decorating the Chapel for Christmas.



## Jigsaw

The Christmas tree in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=23cb997ba3c5>



## Our Congregation



On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, George Gilbert was Baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

Thank you to the family for sending in this lovely photo.

## Prayers

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

### **RIP**

Leslie Holden, Angela Amica and Rita Lombers.

### **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, Roger.



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