



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

Dear friends,

This coming Sunday is often called 'Racial Justice Sunday'. Churches throughout the country are asked to remember all the work that is done by communities, churches, schools and other organisations to combat racism in any form. I believe that churches throughout London do everything they can to be as inclusive as possible but it is a fact that more can, and should, be done to ensure that everyone, whatever their ethnicity, is made welcome.

Next Sunday I shall be quoting from a paper that Baroness Doreen Lawrence has written as she reflects upon the death of her son, Stephen, murdered in April 1993.

All of us need to search our hearts and minds to be certain that we are not even unknowingly and unintentionally guilty of any kind of racism, and here I include myself.

As I write this, I am aware of the terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, with the huge loss of life and suffering for so many people. There are already many appeals for donations from international organisations such as the UNHCR, and the chapel will be contributing to one of these appeals.

If you would like to make a donation to the UNHCR please follow the link below -
[UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency](#)

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

**Services Details, 12th February 2023
Sexagesima Sunday**

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

Psalm 136: 1-9.

Readings

Genesis 1: 1-2:3.
Matthew 6: 25-end.

Collect for Sexagesima

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our
trust in any thing that we do; Mercifully grant
that by thy power we may be defended
against all adversity; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Ash Wednesday

7pm, Wednesday 22nd February

Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower
All welcome to attend.

Poem of the week

Gillian Allnut is an English poet, author of nine collections and the recipient of several prizes, including the 2016 Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. Her poems are often quite short and quite spare. In this poem, written in 2004, we are in Durham Cathedral's Galilee Chapel, where St Bede (also known as The Venerable Bede) and St Cuthbert are buried. There are several possible interpretations of the poem, where the verger is described carefully polishing the floor where the police officer and the voyeur are walking, as we step into this holy place. The air closing over the angel's departure alludes to the ever-present sense of holiness in the Cathedral. The river and light move together, surrounding the Cathedral and making it into a place of the heart, where light and grace meet. Read the poem slowly and savour its meaning for you.

Verger, Winter afternoon, Galilee Chapel

Careful, here,
as polishing cloth across a floor,
police officer,
voyeur.

Air closes over the angel's departure
Always, in the air. The river
in the floor

inhabits it, as light inhabits water
or the heart's interior
or here.

Gillian Allnut b. 1949

Tracy's Garden - Snowdrops



Our Congregation

On Sunday 5th February, Petra was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Thank you to the family for sending in this picture of their special day.



Jigsaw

Hillsborough Castle in the snow.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=29273267740e>



Historic Royal Palaces

A Boleyn family ring is going on display at Hampton Court Palace. Engraved with a bull's head, this ring is thought to have belonged to Anne Boleyn's family. The bull was likely chosen as a visual pun on the family name which was often spelt 'Bull-en'.

On display at Hampton Court Palace from Wednesday 8 Feb. The ring was purchased with generous support from HRP patrons Arts Council England / V&A Purchase Grant Fund and Art Fund.



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 and Florence.

RIP

Howard Broomby and Katja Hill.

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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