



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

## Weekly Newsletter 01 April 2020

Dear friends,

I hope that you have had a good week since I was last in touch with you. Most people I speak to have started to get into a daily routine. For some, this will be quite easy but for others more difficult. As I look out of my back windows onto the area where people approach The Tower, the only people I see are walkers and those out jogging. There are times when I see nobody, which is quite surreal.

I want to start this letter by putting a smile on your face. If you have not seen 'Mrs Beamish' then you have missed something very special. It has been out for a long time but is still very amusing.

Watch and enjoy: - <https://youtu.be/Uc80G6Yzu04>

### Tower of London



This is a picture of your chaplain in the moat – attached to the lead is the automatic grass cutter which he appears to be taking for a walk around the moat. Please send your caption in, let's see what you come up with?

## The Chapel Clerk and Sextons



Matt Pryme, our Chapel Clerk, is still working in the chapel. He is using this quiet time to poke into all those cupboards and corridors behind the scenes, that have for years accumulated all manner of ancient broken and used items. For example, we have a cupboard full of miscellaneous candles which need sorting out. All the Sextons are presently stood down. I saw Moira, our former Chapel Clerk, who asked that her best wishes be passed onto everyone.

### Thought for the Day

Please follow the link for the Thought for the Day from Reverend Cortland Fransella  
<https://youtu.be/3XxxJmpgg7g>

### Music for the week, from Colm Carey

My musical choice for the Newsletter this week is the Overture to Leonard Bernstein's operetta 'Candide'. If I possessed a time machine, one of the things I'd love to do is travel back to the 1940s, 50s and 60s when the great American musicals were being produced on Broadway and the silver screen. Being a musical director in the pit for these iconic shows must have been tremendous fun, and I love both the escapism and optimism that these productions allow. Of course, Bernstein's 'Candide' (based on the original story by Voltaire) presents somewhat more serious material than is the case in many musicals, but you wouldn't know if from the joie de vivre of the overture. Bernstein was best known as a conductor, but it is as a composer that he really wished to be recognised. His creative genius is on full display in this piece. It brims with energy and uses the orchestra in a very colourful way. It is also great fun to see Bernstein himself conducting the piece, dancing away on the podium as he loved to do - he used to tell conducting students that you should use every part of your body to 'show' the music, and he does this in spades. I hope you enjoy it...  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=422-yb8TXj8>

### A Prayer

Please continue to remember those on our sick list – some of whom are very poorly  
Isabelle, Rustom, Jo, Rory, Lucy, Judy, Neil, Margaret, Leon, Susan, Theodore and John.  
Those affected by the coronavirus.

God of love,  
We ask for your blessing on  
those who are ill,  
those who are vulnerable  
those who are worried about  
themselves and those they love,  
and for those who mourn.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Our Congregation


Each week I am going to ask members of our congregation to produce a short video telling us something of their situation. These will be people you recognise, and I hope it will be another way of us keeping in touch with each other.

Please follow the links below for a video from Rosemarie McGurk, a member of our congregation and the Director of the Chapel Music Friends.

<https://youtu.be/YmBgIioTdN4>

### First Love Foundation

You can see again a special appeal for the Food bank from Gill Howard, one of our congregation, here: <https://youtu.be/UU9bLuwBCC4>.

	<p><u><a href="#">First Love Foundation</a></u> Nearly half of Tower Hamlets' children are in poverty - we at First Love Foundation seek to address this by providing emergency food and advice &amp; support to families and individuals in need. Donate now to help our local community. <a href="http://www.firstlovefoundation.org.uk">www.firstlovefoundation.org.uk</a></p>
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This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday, and Debbie will be sending you a Palm Sunday service to follow later this week. Please remember if you think of anybody who might benefit from joining our chapel mailing list, to please contact Debbie. I am again very grateful to Colm, Cortland and Debbie for their help. Please take care of yourselves, keep safe and keep in touch.



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