



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

September onwards.....

A number of people have been in touch asking the question as to when the chapels might be back in use both for Sunday worship and to continue our 500th Anniversary Celebrations? This is the same question many other people are asking about their own church and other institutions presently closed. In the light of the current situation we have had to cancel a number of our events celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Chapel. However, I wanted to take this opportunity to say that we very much hope to go ahead with what we have planned for September onwards (including opening for Sunday worship) beginning the 500th Celebrations with Zöe Brookshaw's recital on September 8th and culminating in our 'Baroque Bonanza' on November 17th. These events will obviously be subject to advice from the Government, HRP and the Church of England, but I sincerely hope that we can enjoy them as scheduled. If for any reason we have to cancel any of them, we very much hope to reschedule them at a later date. We shall also let you have good warning about when the chapels will open for Sunday worship.

Shakespeare knew how to express the sense of loss we feel at being isolated, in this gift of a springtime sonnet.

SONNET 98

From you have I been absent in the spring,
When proud-pied April dress'd in all his trim
Hath put a spirit of youth in every thing,
That heavy Saturn laugh'd and leap'd with him.
Yet nor the lays of birds nor the sweet smell
Of different flowers in odour and in hue
Could make me any summer's story tell,
Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew;
Nor did I wonder at the lily's white,
Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;
They were but sweet, but figures of delight,
Drawn after you, you pattern of all those.
Yet seem'd it winter still, and, you away,
As with your shadow I with these did play.

Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella <https://youtu.be/837n7sWD6W8>

Music for the Week, from Colm Carey

A Shropshire Lad, Rhapsody for Orchestra - George Butterworth (1885 - 1916)

Like many of his generation, Butterworth tragically lost his life in the First World War, and English music lost a very talented composer. Butterworth, like Vaughan Williams, was fascinated by England's folk traditions - he was a keen advocate of Morris Dancing - and they travelled together to various parts of the countryside to collect folk tunes. The musical characteristics and flavour of old English melodies were to have a profound effect on the

music of both men. From 1909-11 Butterworth set eleven of A. E. Housman's A Shropshire Lad poems in two song cycles. In 1911, by way of an epilogue, he composed the Rhapsody for Orchestra which he first called The Land of Lost Content and then The Cherry Tree before finally deciding on A Shropshire Lad. The music is a true romantic fantasy and the images of Shropshire seen here provide an evocative backdrop to Butterworth's work.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGUKV58f3ms&list=RDzGUKV58f3ms&start_radio=1

An Update on the First Love Foundation Food Bank, from Gill Howard

Dear friends, volunteer team and supporters,

I have had an update on how our wonderful First Love team are getting on in these extremely difficult times.

The core FLF team and volunteers are based at the office and are receiving about 150 referrals a week. They are doing triage over the phone, prioritising and getting food deliveries organised. Volunteers are also helping to plan all the delivery routes, working in the warehouse, and dropping off deliveries. It's a very demanding strategical and logistical operation, but the ways of working are being refined and streamlined all the time and they are becoming increasingly more efficient. They have been blessed with two new Bengali speaking volunteers, so that is particularly helpful in ensuring that all client needs are being met.



Tower Hamlets Council have designated FLF as one of their frontline services, so they are directing clients to contact the team directly, meaning there is a non-stop stream of calls. Some clients are really stressed and anxious and so there is a lot of reassuring and calming to be done which is draining and pretty stressful for the team, but ultimately very rewarding.

There has been a huge outpouring of generosity from various companies and food is being delivered to FLF by Aldi each week. Apparently, the warehouse now looks like a supermarket! Barnie is happily wearing shorts, sporting a new haircut and managing the warehouse as professionally and efficiently as always.

If any volunteers feel they are able to re-join the team, they are in need of someone to help with phone triage 2 - 3 days per week. They also need someone with excellent IT skills to help co-ordinate all the deliveries and input data into Salesforce, 3-4 days per week would be ideal. If you have any interest in those please would you contact Yasmine directly at the FLF office.

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

Caption Time



We have had some brilliant responses for Reverend Cortland Fransella's 'homemade bread'.

Rosie Hoare – “Could we put this on the mantelpiece?”

Martin Potter - “Is this a dagger I see before me”; and “Alas poor Yorick, I knew him”!!

Richard and Kathleen - "Pick up they bread, and walk."

Adam Ogilvie –

“Tower of London cannon boule
Tower of London canon boule
Lead, and others will follow
Serving suggestion: don't”

Marguerite Smith -

“There once was a Scholar from Rhodes
Who, whilst in lockdown, attempted some loaves,
To his surprise
They failed to rise
So into the bin the loaf goes.”

Ravens at the Tower of London

Three new raven chicks have just hatched at the Tower of London during the coronavirus lockdown.

Their parents Huginn and Muninn already had two other offspring, Poppy and Geroge. Ravenmaster of the Tower Yeoman Warder Chris Skaife said: ‘Displaying their usual intelligence and good timing, the ravens have given us some much-needed good news to announce.’



Skaife added: ‘We are thrilled by the arrival of our new chicks and, though we don't have room to keep them, we're pleased that the bloodline of the Tower of London seems secure for the foreseeable future, which can only be good news for the Kingdom.’

You can see a video of Ravenmaster Chris Skaife with the baby Ravens on Historic Royal Palaces Instagram or Facebook page. Links below (you may need the app installed to view)

https://www.instagram.com/p/B_Wr5GDI2Zh/?igshid=clnc23uh2b01

<https://www.facebook.com/46388888467/posts/10158145682398468/?sfnsn=scwspmo&extid=P5druHg5L8nMunQl&d=n&vh=e>

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 link below for an update from a well-known member of the Choir, Caspar Barrie.

<https://youtu.be/fVGsILnzPqY>

Our second contribution is from Max Woodley, who, along with his two brothers, mum Jackie and dad Scott, is a regular attendee at the 9.15 service.

<https://youtu.be/IF6BaueHiUk>

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, John, Neil, Margaret, Noel, Denise
and Hannah.

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.

With best wishes and prayers, Roger.

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