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

**HM Tower of London**

Dear friends,

Conflict continues in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine. In both theatres of war innocent victims, including many children, have been killed, injured and traumatised. Relief of such suffering is vital and urgent. We often feel helpless but there are those working practically to relieve suffering. You might like to consider contributing to one of the following organisations active in areas of conflict:

* Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>
* The British Red Cross <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/>
* Save the Children <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/>
* Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders <https://msf.org.uk/> .

Amidst so much sombre news, it is nice to have something to look forward to. On Thursday 02 November Channel 5 begins a new series (series 6) of Inside the Tower, at 2100. You can find more details [here](Inside%20the%20Tower%20of%20London%20season%206%20|%20Tower%20of%20London%20|%20Historic%20Royal%20Palaces%20(hrp.org.uk)). Keep an eye out for faces that you recognise. Meanwhile, you can catch up on all the five previous series on [My5](https://www.channel5.com/show/inside-the-tower-of-london/) .

You may remember the mezzo-soprano [Helen Charlston](https://www.helencharlston.com/) who used to sing in our choir. The BBC lunchtime concert on 23 October was devoted to a solo recital by her. It can be found [here](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001rhz5?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile).

Later in this Newsletter is a reminder about this year’s Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November. Please remember that this starts ten minutes earlier than usual, outside on Tower Green.

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

**Sunday Service Details 05 November 2023**

**Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

**Psalm** 43

**Readings**

Micah 3: 5-end

Matthew 24: 1-14

**Collect for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Trinity**

LORD, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness;

that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities,

and devoutly given to serve thee in good works,

to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**Poem of the week**

This week we have just a few lines – of an autumnal nature - from a very long poem, *The Princess* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. As a bonus, however, you also get a related picture. Alfred Tennyson, 1st Baron Tennyson FRS was the Poet Laureate during much of Queen Victoria's reign. A number of phrases from Tennyson's work have become commonplace in the English language, including:

"Nature, red in tooth and claw"

"'Tis better to have loved and lost / Than never to have loved at all"

"Theirs not to reason why, / Theirs but to do and die"

"My strength is as the strength of ten, / Because my heart is pure."

He is the ninth most frequently quoted writer in *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*.

Tennyson's early poetry, with its mediaevalism and powerful visual imagery, was a major influence on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Here are the selected lines from Tennyson’s *the Princess*:

'Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,  
Tears from the depth of some divine despair  
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,  
In looking on the happy Autumn-fields,  
And thinking of the days that are no more.

*… and, later in the poem …*

In that fine air I tremble, all the past  
Melts mist-like into this bright hour, and this  
Is morn to more, and all the rich to-come  
Reels, as the golden Autumn woodland reels  
Athwart the smoke of burning weeds.

**Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-92)**

A group of women and children picking leaves

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***Autumn Leaves* by Sir John Everett Millais (1829-1896)**

Tennyson’s poem was published in 1847. In 1856 Sir John Everett Millais, a founder member of the Pre-Raphaelite group of painters and writers, exhibited his painting *Autumn Leaves* at the Royal Academy. Four girls appear in evening light, collecting fallen leaves in a garden. A wisp of smoke appears to come from a nearby bonfire. The two girls on the left, modelled on Millais' sisters-in-law Alice and Sophie Gray, are portrayed in middle-class clothing of the era; the two on the right are in rougher, working-class clothing so are possibly servants – maybe daughters of the gardener. It has been seen as one of the earliest influences on the development of the aesthetic movement and the theme of autumn leaves has been interpreted as representing the transience of youth and beauty, a common theme in Millais' art. The apple held by the youngest girl at the right may allude to the loss of childhood innocence by reference to original sin and expulsion from the Garden of Eden. More specifically in terms of time and place, Millais is said to have visited Tennyson in 1854 at his house ’Farringford’ on the Isle of Wight and to have read the poem while he was there. His experience in helping the poet to sweep up and burn dead leaves at Tennyson’s home may have directly inspired the painting.

Tennyson’s house, by the way, is being lovingly restored. Both the house and the gardens can be visited in the spring and summer - [Farringford Historic House and Isle of Wight Home of Tennyson](https://farringford.co.uk/) .

**Our Congregation**

Our long-time choir member Will Ford and Philippa Main were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula on 14 October.We send them our warmest congratulations for their new life together.

A group of people in a church

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*Debbie, please insert correct details and a photo if available of baptisms and other weddings.*

**The Royal Marines’ Association**

On Sunday 29 October we were delighted to welcome once more a group from the Royal Marines’ Association, led by Lt Gen Sir Rob Fulton  KBE, KStJ, who read the Epistle.

A group of people standing in front of a building

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**Remembrance**

[](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiykMzkmMLWAhXB1xoKHfisDl4QjRwIBw&url=http://www.southcrosland.org.uk/events/remembrance-poppies&psig=AFQjCNFisBZHHXzj8P4abGcd2juYglwQUg&ust=1506492692151937)

[](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiykMzkmMLWAhXB1xoKHfisDl4QjRwIBw&url=http://www.southcrosland.org.uk/events/remembrance-poppies&psig=AFQjCNFisBZHHXzj8P4abGcd2juYglwQUg&ust=1506492692151937)

We shall hold our annual Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November, starting at **1050** outside on Tower Green. Please note the earlier start time, so that we may all be in place for the two minutes’ silence at 1100.

**Jigsaw**

This week’s jigsaw brings one of the trees near our house, seen against a blue sky with clouds.

A tree with green leaves

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<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/.......>

**Tracy’s Garden** *– ??? Debbie - Not sure if you have any photos in stock*

**Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name:

Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Dan, Ian, Patti, Florence and Kofi.

**RIP**

??? none known to me.

P**lease continue to pray for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine:**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine 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 to all, Cortland.



The Reverend Cortland Fransella

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