



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

Dear friends,

The sudden death of Alexei Navalny has shocked people the world over. In his last public broadcast, Navalny spoke about his faith, his wife and family, and the need for courage in the face of a regime he knew to be institutionally corrupt. Returning to Russia, in the certainty that he would be arrested, was an act of extreme courage and bravery. Navalny's death, alongside that of approximately 30,000 people in the war between Israel and Hamas, with the fear of further bloodshed to come, reminds us all of the fragile and dangerous world we live in.

Deserts are places with vast areas of emptiness. Jesus experienced intense solitude during his forty days and nights in the wilderness. However, such 'desert moments' of emptiness can also be filled with hope. The Reverend Katherine Hedderly, our preacher last Sunday, reminded us that in these desert moments, people such as Julian of Norwich can teach us how to look at the world afresh:

'In this time of Lent, allow Julian of Norwich to teach you how to look at the world with wonder at the love with which God made and sustains it – at the gift of our earth and the call to cherish it, seeing God's love in acts of courage and faith, and humanity, God's love in the ordinary moments and things of our days. See if you can foster this attitude, amidst the suffering we are seeing all around us – in Gaza and Israel, in Ukraine, in Sudan – not to turn our faces from it, but to discover God's great love for our world and all that is made, and know his sorrow too at all that mars it'.

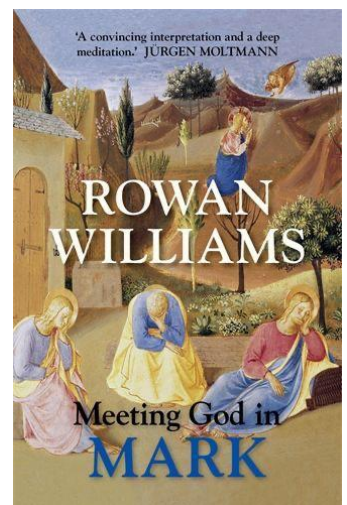
Prayer of Julian of Norwich

In you, Father almighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.
In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving.
You are our mother, brother, and Saviour.
In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvellous and plenteous grace.
You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us.
You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.
Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well,
and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.
Amen.

I would like to suggest a book for your reading during Lent. It is **Meeting God in Mark**, by **Rowan Williams**. In this book Rowan Williams explores the essential meaning and purpose of St Mark's Gospel. The book is a good read for all Christians at all levels and, in typical Rowan Williams fashion, asks us to think again and to see things in a fresh light. The book costs £10 and can be bought online and is also available on Kindle. Why not try it?

Please think about joining us for one of our four **Lent Lunches** and meet our preachers. Let Debbie know if you would like to come. All our preachers in Lent are exploring women who have influenced Christian thinking and made a difference to the church.

With my best wishes to you all, Roger.



**Sunday Service Details 25th February 2024
The Second Sunday in Lent**

**0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula**

Preacher: The Venerable Rosemary Lain-Priestley, Advisor to the Bishop of London

Readings

1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8

Matthew 15: 21-28

Collect for The Second Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power
of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both
outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which
may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**‘Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross’
performed by the London Haydn Quartet**

Tuesday 26th March 2024, 7pm

One of the world's leading period instrument string quartets, The London Haydn Quartet was born out of a passion for Haydn. They have received invitations to many of the world's most important concert series and venues, including the Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House. Their complete series of recordings of Haydn's quartets on the Hyperion label have met with international critical acclaim.

Haydn's 'Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross' is one of his most enduring works. Originally an orchestral work commissioned for Good Friday, this popular transcription for string quartet was made by Haydn himself. Following the recent release of the London Haydn Quartet's recording of the work, the Tower of London presents them live in concert at the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula.

Tickets available at – https://tickets.hrp.org.uk/hrp_b2c/palace.html?eventcode=TLCHAP



Poem of the Week

Last week I was in Edinburgh and, walking through Princes Street Gardens, I saw a bank of snowdrops. I have always enjoyed seeing snowdrops and find them very heartening. They symbolise innocence, purity and the strength to overcome challenges. As one of the first flowers of spring, they are often associated with new beginnings, hope and rebirth. Mary Webb, an English romance novelist and poet of the early 20th century and a Shropshire lass, (also a distant relative, through her mother, of Walter Scott), set much of her work in her beloved Shropshire countryside. Perhaps her most famous novel was *Precious Bane*, published in 1924 and for which she won the Prix Femina Vie Heureuse in 1926. It was adapted for BBC television in 1957 and again in 1989. Mary Webb's fame was further boosted by Stanley Baldwin, who described her as a 'neglected genius'. She died young, at the age of 46, and is buried in Shrewsbury. *Snowdrop Time*, this week's poem, evokes a sense of hushed anticipation and wonder at the beauty of nature's rebirth.

Snowdrop Time

Ah, hush! Tread softly through the rime,
For there will be a blackbird singing, or a thrush.
Like coloured beads the elm-buds flush:
All the trees dream of leaves and flowers and light.
And see! The northern bank is much more white
Than frosty grass, for now is snowdrop time.

Mary Webb 1881-1927



Easter Flowers

As in previous years, we are collecting money for Easter Flowers.

If you would like to donate towards the flowers, please bring either cash or a cheque with you on Sunday, or you can send a cheque to me at the address at the end of the newsletter.

Flowers are often given in memory of people who have died, and these names will be remembered at Easter.

Thank you.

Our Congregation

Enjoying our first Lent Lunch.



Our Chapel Services

On Sunday 11th February the Royal Military Police (RMP) joined the 11am service. Pictured below is the Reverend David Barrett.



On Thursday 15th February the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals held their Founders' Service in the Chapel. Pictured below The Constable of the Tower of London, General Sir Gordon Messenger, stands next to the Master, Russell Penny, members of the Company and the Very Reverend Andrew Tremlett, Dean of St Paul's.



Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=09e9aea09478>



Tracy's Garden – Crocuses



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Ann, Mark, Dan, Ian, Patti, Florence, Jeff, Margaret, Toby and Kofi.

RIP

Bill Hanbury, Jannine Marr, Graham Matthews and Alexei Navalny.

Please 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, Roger.



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