



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

Dear friends,

This week I was deeply concerned to read in the press the story of the Liberal Democrat candidate David Campanale, who is claiming discrimination against him because he is a Christian and holds certain views. The Liberal Democrats have been accused by him of breaching equality law by deselecting a candidate 'based on his Christian faith'.

The party has been reported to the equalities watchdog for allegedly tolerating a 'hostile environment' for people of faith, failing to investigate serious allegations of discrimination and harassment, and emboldening 'those who believe Christians should be driven out of public life'. The Daily Telegraph reported that the complaint to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) concerns the treatment of Campanale, who is set to be replaced as the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Sutton and Cheam after a two-year campaign against him by members of his local party. (An appeal against the decision is currently under way.)

As we get closer to a general election, I hope there will be Christian people (alongside those of other faiths) who will put themselves up as candidates for Parliament. I believe that much of the foundation of our nation has been based on Christian principles and would like to think, therefore, that there will be a religious voice heard in debates about moral issues (such as assisted dying) in the new Parliament.

Every week we are called by the Book of Common Prayer to pray for our King and all those set in authority under him. Let us hope that there will be Christian voices in the next Parliament.

With all good wishes, Roger

**Service Details for Sunday for 19th May 2024
Pentecost (Whit-Sunday) and State Parade**

0915 Holy Communion, *Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower*
1100 Holy Communion and State Parade, *Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula*

Readings Acts 2: 1-11 and John 14: 15-31a

Collect for Whit-Sunday

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts
of thy faithful people, by the sending to them
the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and
evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and
reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen**



The London Hygiene Bank

The chapel continues to support this project, together with nearly all the churches in the centre of London. Lack of basic toiletries can be shaming and humiliating and result in social isolation.

There is a box by the door of the chapel every Sunday morning, so do please drop in a few items each week if you can. These all add up and will make a big difference to people who simply can't afford the normal hygiene items we take for granted. The following link gives details of what is currently needed, as well as how to donate - <https://thehygienebank.com> .

Poem of the Week

Elizabeth Barrett, better known as Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-61), came from a wealthy family and was educated at home. A child prodigy, she started writing poems from the age of four and, at ten, was translating and writing poems in Greek. She read widely and in different languages, including, later in life, the Hebrew Bible. She fell ill at 15 with a serious illness causing intense head and spinal pain and loss of mobility for much of her life, but this never stopped her writing. She was much admired in the UK and in the USA and influenced such writers as Emily Dickinson.

In this poem '*If thou must love me...*' (*Sonnets from the Portuguese 14*), which is a great favourite of mine, Barrett Browning writes about mutual love, reminding us powerfully that while there may be all kinds of changes in life as we get older and become mentally and physically frailer, true love is unchanging, and we must love eternally 'for love's sake'.

If thou must love me ...Sonnet 14

If thou must love me, let it be for nought
Except for love's sake only. Do not say,
"I love her for her smile—her look—her way
Of speaking gently, —for a trick of thought
That falls in well with mine, and certes brought
A sense of pleasant ease on such a day"—
For these things in themselves, Belovèd, may
Be changed, or change for thee—and love, so wrought,
May be unwrought so. Neither love me for
Thine own dear pity's wiping my cheeks dry:
A creature might forget to weep, who bore
Thy comfort long, and lose thy love thereby!
But love me for love's sake, that evermore
Thou mayst love on, through love's eternity.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning 1806-61

Our Congregation

On Sunday 12th May, baby Hector Booth was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Thank you to the family for this lovely photograph of the day.



The Chaplain's Garden

You may spot these lovely hostas outside the Chaplain's house on your next visit.



Our Chapel flower team

Our Chapel flower team are a group from the congregation who very kindly volunteer their time and skills to create the flower arrangements in the Chapel each week. I'm sure we all agree that they do a brilliant job!

The team is always looking for new helpers, so if you're interested please do be in touch.



Pictured above are two members of the team – Charlotte and Rachel.

Jigsaw

Another great picture of Tower Bridge, this time fully open to let through Le Champlain.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2ba8f5844e2c>



Prayers

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

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.



1 Tower Green

HM Tower of London

EC3N 4AB

07908 413045

Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk

Twitter [@RogerHall53](https://twitter.com/RogerHall53)