



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

Dear friends,

Alleluia, Christ is risen: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

I hope that you all had a good Easter. Eastertide is a season of hope and of new beginnings as we celebrate Jesus bursting from the tomb; proof that God's love is stronger than death. This year we have a special beginning in the life of our nation with the coronation of our new King.

We are asked at this time to pray for King Charles and the life and service for which he will be anointed in the solemn Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey on May 6th.

Following that theme of service, May 8<sup>th</sup> has been announced as '**The Big Help Out Day**' when we are encouraged to take up new opportunities for volunteering our time and offering our skills to help others. I encourage you to think about this.

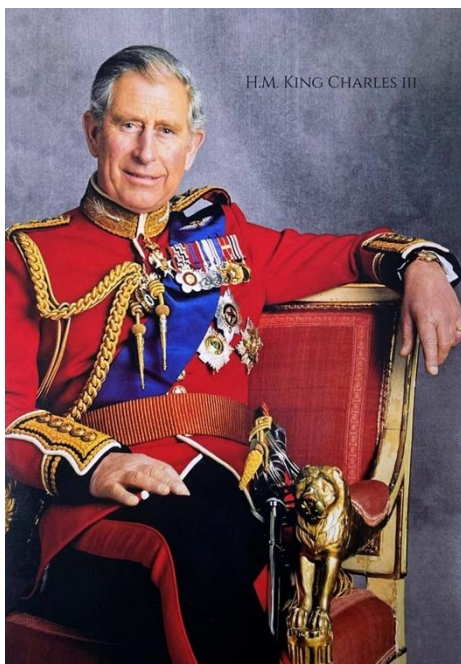
I recently spent some time with the vicar of Holy Sepulchre, London Wall who has begun a project called **The Square Mile Hygiene Bank**.

This project collects household and personal cleaning essentials, including deodorants, shower gel, make-up, nappies, toilet rolls and laundry detergent. The project currently distributes hygiene products via 23 different community partners, including schools, local authority children's services, charities helping victims of modern-day slavery, and organisations and night shelters supporting the homeless. In all, about 5000 recipients receive much-needed help. I have always appreciated the great support that the chapel community has given to the Tower Hamlets Food Bank and this project is one to which we can again contribute. Just one or two items a week will make a big difference. From the first Sunday in May, there will be a box at the back of the chapel where you can leave contributions.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the 1100 am service of Choral Matins will have a Coronation theme; do put the date in your diary.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

**Online Coronation service**



A special service celebrating the Coronation of HM Charles III has been recorded in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, and will be available online from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

## **Sunday Service Details**

### **The Third Sunday after Easter**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

**1100** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

#### **Readings**

1 Peter 2: 11-17

John 16: 16-22

#### **Collect for The Third Sunday after Easter**

**Almighty God**, who shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **Poem of the week**

RS Thomas was a Welsh poet and Anglican priest of the Church of Wales. He is noted for his Welsh nationalism, deep spirituality and dislike of the anglicisation and industrialisation of Wales. His poetry is appreciated throughout the English-speaking world, and was particularly admired by Sir John Betjeman. RS Thomas is said to have had a difficult and obstinate personality, but to have cared deeply for his parishioners. He was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1964, nominated for the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature, and is considered one of the 20th century's greatest poets.

I like this poem and read it again this week. As I sat in the chapel first thing in the morning, its words came to life. The poem asks us to go into an empty church and listen to the silence, examining its nature and where the silence is taking us.

#### **In Church**

Often I try  
to analyse the quality  
of its silences. Is this where God hides  
from my searching? I have stopped to listen,  
after the few people have gone.  
to the air recomposing itself  
for vigil. It has waited like this  
since the stones grouped themselves about it.  
These are the hard ribs  
of a body that our prayers have failed  
to animate. Shadows advance  
from their corners to take possession  
of places the light held  
for an hour. The bats resume  
their business. The uneasiness of the pews  
ceases. There is no other sound  
in the darkness but the sound of a man  
breathing, testing his faith  
on emptiness, nailing his questions  
one by one to an untenanted cross.

**RS Thomas 1913-2000**



New Yeoman Warder uniforms bearing HM King Charles III's cypher.

Official Photograph of the Yeoman Warders in their new CIIR uniforms.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2fe19cc38f2b>



An 'off duty' picture of the Yeoman Warders in their EIIR uniforms for the last time.





Chief Yeoman Warder. Yeoman Gaoler, and Yeoman Sergeants.



Yeoman Warder and Chapel Sexton Terry Briggs



Yeoman Warders Emma Rousell and David Coleman





## **Our Choir**

A new segment in our newsletter, once a month we will have a short piece from one of our choir members. We hope that you enjoy getting to know them better.

### **Nancy Cole**



I'm Nancy and I'm one of the altos in the chapel choir. I joined officially in 2019 and have loved being part of this wonderful choir. When I'm not at the Tower I sing for the BBC singers, and many other choral groups. The recent attempted closure of the group by the BBC was a tremendous shock. Everyone at the Tower has been so supportive and I want to thank Roger for talking about it during the service on the 12th of March. The Tower and the BBC have had a long relationship, with many past members of the group also singing in the chapel choir. Thankfully, owing to the enormous outcry from the entire industry, the decision to close the group has been withdrawn and hopefully the future of has been secured. Despite the shock of the process, it has been enormously humbling to see the reaction of the public. We are so thankful.

I grew up in Lancaster and started singing at the Priory church when I was 12. The girls' choir was brand new and I took great pride in being a founding member. After studying music at Oxford then York, I moved to London to pursue singing professionally. It was an unsure time in my life but I'm so glad I chose singing. It's the most rewarding process, and I'm always discovering new and wonderful works to be part of.

When not singing, my husband Jonathan and I can be found touring the parks of east London with our son Raphael who is two now and keeping us on our toes. I have three brothers who all live in London, so there are always busy meet ups to be arranged!

### **Oxlips from Tracy's Garden**



### **Bluebells by the Tower**



## **Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Norma, Ann, Ros, Mark, Madeleine, Dan, Derek, Colin, Ian, Patti, Florence, Bridget and Veronica.

### **RIP**

Christopher Perry

### **Please continue to pray for Ukraine:**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine 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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