



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

Dear Friends,

Where has this year gone? At one moment we were marking the New Year and now Easter is nearly two weeks behind us. The Tower is returning to something like its former rhythm of visitors, and we are all gearing up for the celebrations surrounding Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the start of June. On Maundy Thursday evening we welcomed Bishop Sarah, Dean of the Chapels Royal and Bishop of London, who presided at our Holy Communion service and washed the feet of members of the congregation.



As Bishop Sarah explained in her sermon, this traditional ritual act gives physical expression to our Lord's injunction to us all to be ministers – servants – to others. On Good Friday we heard St Mark's account of the crucifixion, interwoven with the sublime music of Fauré's Requiem. Easter Sunday saw us emerging from the darkness of betrayal and death into the glorious light of the Resurrection, marked with a triumphant rendition by the choir of Schubert's Mass in G with the accompaniment of a splendid chamber orchestra. The sun shone and visitors to the Tower were treated to the sight of the Yeoman Body marching behind the Governor and Deputy Governor.





*(Image credit – Fiona Campbell)*



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Amidst all of these joyful celebrations of Easter, we remembered the tragic events in Ukraine, and prayed that that country might experience its own resurrection from betrayal, violence, torture and death. So, as the Church year moves on, we continue, in the spirit of Maundy Thursday, to explore ways in which we can imitate Christ and best serve those less fortunate than ourselves.

Warm wishes and blessings to you all,

Cortland.

**Sunday Service Details**  
**01 May 2022 The Second Sunday after Easter**

0915 Holy Communion St John the Evangelist (White Tower)  
1100 Sung Matins St Peter ad Vincula (Coffee after church)

**Readings at Matins**

Acts 9: 1-6  
John 21: 1-19

**The Collect for The Second Sunday after Easter**

**ALMIGHTY** God, who hast given thine only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin, and also an ensample of godly life; Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Poem of the week: Easter Day by John Donne (1573-1631)

John Donne's early career was one of self-indulgence and worldly pleasure, as evidenced in his remarkable erotic verse. Later in life, he wrote much striking religious poetry. It might be said that he underwent a personal conversion from the secular to the spiritual.

In this poem for Easter Day, Donne describes our Lord as a 'better sun' than that which rises each day because Christ shed light not only on the earth but also in Hell in the three days between his death and Resurrection. It may seem odd to hear Donne refer to our Lord becoming a mineral but he uses an image from alchemy that would have been familiar to his contemporaries. The 'tincture' here was the substance which alchemists believed could turn base metals such as lead and iron into gold. Donne, perhaps reflecting on his own life, uses the analogy of our Lord converting us from our base nature into his own likeness by sending his Holy Spirit upon us.

SLEEP, sleep, old Sun! thou canst not have repast  
As yet the wound thou took'st on Friday last;  
Sleep then and rest; the world may bear thy stay,  
A better sun rose before thee to-day.  
Who not content t' enlighten all that dwell  
On the earth's face, as thou, enlighten'd hell;  
And made the dark fires languish in that vale,  
As at thy presence here our fires grow pale.  
Whose body, having walk'd on earth, and now  
Hastening to heaven, would—that He might allow  
Himself unto all stations, and fill all—  
For these three days become a mineral.  
He was all gold when He lay down, but rose  
All tincture, and doth not alone dispose  
Leaden and iron wills to good, but is  
Of power to make ev'n sinful flesh like His.

### Historic Royal Palaces – History of the Tower moat

The article below includes some excellent photographs and drawings of the Tower moats many uses over the years.  
<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/9-surprising-facts-about-the-tower-of-london-moat/>

On 7 January 1928, the moat flooded catastrophically after a downpour caused the Thames to breach its bank. For the first time, photography was able to capture how the moat looked when filled with water.

An encampment for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Queen Victoria celebrated the occasion in 1897 with huge military parades. Hundreds of the soldiers were encamped in the moat.



## Jigsaw

Thanks to Charlotte Gunvor for this glorious shot of the tulips Hampton Court Palace.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=38fd7034b6f1>



## Historic Royal Places - Platinum Jubilee Commonwealth Globe



A 'Commonwealth of Nations Globe' was unveiled at the Tower on Thursday 14 April ahead of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The globe, which sits inside a silver crown on a blue and gold cushion, will become a centre piece in the beacon-lighting ceremony that's taking place over the long June weekend to mark Her Majesty's remarkable 70-year reign. One of these beacons will be lit at the Tower of London on 2 June.

The globe was officially presented to the Tower by the Queen's Pageantmaster and accompanied by a 70-piece Royal Air Force band, escorted by Chief Yeoman Warder and Yeoman Gaoler. The Reverend Cortland Fransella then gave blessing. The globe will remain on public display for seven weeks in the White Tower.

Its design features platinum, diamond, gold and silver elements, representing the monarch's four jubilees. Stones were also collected from the top of the four highest British peaks – Mount Snowdon in Wales, Ben Nevis in Scotland, Slieve Donard in Northern Ireland and Scafell Pike in England. These were attached to the base of the crown to symbolise the coming together of the four nations in celebration of the Jubilee.



## **Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very poorly, amongst whom we name: Deborah, Heather, Pat, Sue, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Judy, Dan, Derek, Ann, Bridget and Peter.

We pray for all those who have died and especially for those who have met violent deaths. May they rest in peace.

### **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 and prayers, Cortland.



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