



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

Dear friends,

The weekend of 6th–7th May is Coronation Weekend, when we will all, in different ways, be involved in marking this historic event. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who will be taking part in the ceremony at Westminster Abbey, including a number of people from The Tower, who have a special role to play.

**General Sir Gordon Messenger, the Constable of HM Tower of London** will carry St Edward's Crown as Lord High Steward of England.

**General the Lord Houghton of Richmond (the former Constable)** will carry the Sword of Temporal Justice.

General Sir Gordon Messenger, the Lord High Steward of England, (an office held for the day only) is the most senior Great Officer of State for the Coronation, and will be bearing St Edward's Crown, the most significant item of regalia, into the Abbey. He said: "It is a huge and unique honour to be appointed Lord High Steward for His Majesty's Coronation. To be playing a key role on such an important and historic occasion is a source of great pride to me, my family, the Royal Marines, and the Tower of London community."

**Brigadier Andrew Jackson, The Keeper of the Jewel House at HM Tower of London** will present The Queen Consort's Ring.

**Deputy Governor Debbie Whittingham will lead 15 beefeaters.**

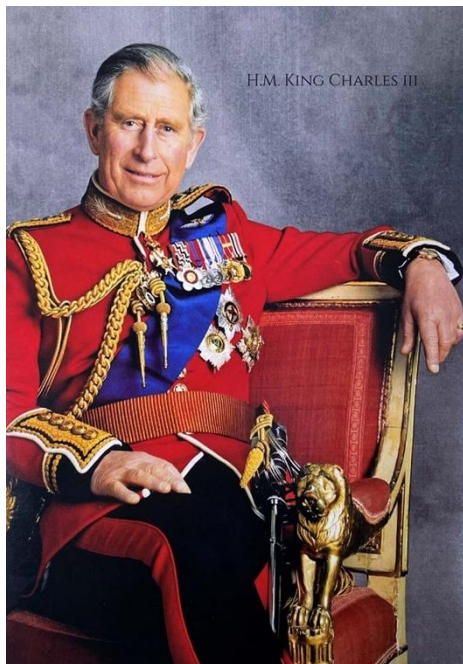
Above all, we, as part of the Chapel Royal, pray for Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla. The Tower is closed on the day of the Coronation but there will be a 62-gun salute from the Wharf at the precise moment the St Edward's Crown is placed on the King's head. After the Coronation, Tower residents and staff will be holding their own day of celebration, with a street party and fun events throughout the rest of the day. The 11am service at the chapel on 7th May will have a Coronation theme and, for those who have already signed up, we will be having our own Coronation big lunch afterwards. There will be lots of pictures for next week's newsletter.

With my warmest good wishes for you all, Roger.

**A Prayer for The King**

**Almighty God**, the fountain of all goodness,  
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him;  
that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,  
to the honour of your name, and the good of your church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## 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 on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May.

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

### **Sunday Service Details for 7th May 2023**

The Fourth Sunday after Easter and Coronation Weekend

**0915** Holy Communion *St John the Evangelist*

**1100** Choral Matins *St Peter ad Vincula*

**Psalm** 31, vv 1-5

**Readings** Genesis 8: 1-19 and John 14: 1-14

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

**O Almighty God**, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men;

Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest,  
and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Lilac from Tracy's Garden



## **Poem of the week**

John Edward Masefield OM, English poet and writer, was Poet Laureate between 1930 and his death in 1967. This week's poem was written to mark the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in May 1937. It takes the form of a prayer, in which Masefield asks God to imbue the new King and Queen, King Charles' grandparents, with the power to create a peaceful and happy nation. The sentiments expressed in the poem seem to me as appropriate now as they were then.

### **A Prayer for the King and Queen at their Coronation**

O GOD, the Ruler over Earth and Sea  
Grant us Thy guidance in the reign to be.

Grant that our King may make this ancient land  
A Realm of brothers, working mind and hand

To make the Life of Man a fairer thing:  
God, grant this living glory to the King.

Grant to our Queen, the strength that lifts & shares  
The daily burden that a monarch bears;

Grant, to them both Thy holy help to give  
The hopeless, hope, the workless, means to live:

The light to see, and skill to make men see,  
Where ways are bad, what better ways may be:

And grace, to give to working minds the zest  
To reach excelling things beyond their best:

Grant to them Peace, and Thy diviner Peace,  
The joy of making human wars to cease.

Make wise the councils of the men who sway  
The Britain here, the Britain far away:

And grant to all, that every rightness willed  
In this beginning reign may be fulfilled.

**John Masefield 1878-1967**



## Tower of London

Coronation benches have been installed at the Tower of London. Designed by schoolchildren across the country, the benches illustrate their hopes for the future during the reign of HM King Charles.



**Jigsaw – Yeoman Warders on the new Coronation benches.**

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=27452c5764a6>

## **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, Martin Gough (Priest).

## **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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