



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

Dear Friends,

I am writing this at the start of Passiontide, the two weeks when we remember Jesus' agony on the Mount of Olives up until his death on the Cross. In mediaeval times last Sunday was referred to as Passion Sunday, but since the 19th century, the Church of England has called this time Passiontide. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday when (hoping that the weather holds) we shall bless our palms outside the RRF Headquarters and will then process to the chapel singing 'All glory Lord and honour'. **Please note** we meet outside the RRF Headquarters at **1050**. Those who need to go straight to the chapel should do so, and we will join you.

I hope you heard the Morning Service on Radio 4 last Sunday. I have received many messages, including from people as far away as Australia, who enjoyed it, and you can still hear it on BBC Sounds. Next Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, Choral Evensong on Radio 3 at 4pm will come from the chapel.

Many people have been asking about our trip to Jordan. There will be a separate newsletter about the trip along with photographs. All I can say is that it was a wonderful mixture of visits to Christian sites and historical places. None of us will ever forget the splendour of Petra. We were also blessed to be among a group of friendly, like-minded and cheerful travelers.

There is a separate notice about our Holy Week services; please try and come to as many services as you can. Finally, Ukraine is still at the forefront of our hearts and minds as the war goes on. The prayer board at the rear of the chapel has been inundated with prayers for Ukraine. When the board is full, I collect the prayers in a basket and place them on the altar for a week, and each day take out at random several of them and use them as part of my daily prayers.

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

**Sunday Service Details**  
**Lent 6 - Palm Sunday**

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

**1050** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

(**Please note**: we assemble outside the RRF Headquarters)

**Psalm 62**

**Readings** Isaiah 50: 4-9a and Matthew 21: 1-13

**Collect for Palm Sunday**

**Almighty and everlasting God**, who of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

For those of you planning to attend Chapel this Sunday, please note that the entry arrangements will be different. The Tower is trying out a new entry system for the upcoming Superbloom display in the moat. **For this Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April, please use the EAST DRAWBRIDGE entrance of the Tower.**

## Important

Please note that Bishop Sarah (Bishop of London and Dean of the Chapels Royal) will be making her first visit to the Chapel on Maundy Thursday.  
Please put this date in your diary; we would like to see as many of you as possible in Chapel for her first visit.

**14<sup>th</sup> April Maundy Thursday 7pm, St Peter ad Vincula.**

### Poem of the week

"Digging" is one of the most widely known poems by the Irish poet and Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney and serves as the opening poem of his debut 1966 collection, *Death of a Naturalist*. It begins with the speaker hovering over a blank page with a pen, preparing to write. The speaker then reflects on the work ethic and skill of his father and grandfather, both of whom worked the land as farmers. Though the speaker is breaking with that specific familial tradition, he presents writing as its own kind of labour, vowing to "dig" with his pen.

### Digging

Between my finger and my thumb  
The squat pen rests; snug as a gun.

Under my window, a clean rasping sound  
When the spade sinks into gravelly ground:  
My father, digging. I look down

Till his straining rump among the flowerbeds  
Bends low, comes up twenty years away  
Stooping in rhythm through potato drills  
Where he was digging.

The coarse boot nestled on the lug, the shaft  
Against the inside knee was levered firmly.  
He rooted out tall tops, buried the bright edge deep  
To scatter new potatoes that we picked,  
Loving their cool hardness in our hands.

By God, the old man could handle a spade.  
Just like his old man.

My grandfather cut more turf in a day  
Than any other man on Toner's bog.  
Once I carried him milk in a bottle  
Corked sloppily with paper. He straightened up  
To drink it, then fell to right away  
Nicking and slicing neatly, heaving sods  
Over his shoulder, going down and down  
For the good turf. Digging.

The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and slap  
Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge  
Through living roots awaken in my head.  
But I've no spade to follow men like them.

Between my finger and my thumb  
The squat pen rests.  
I'll dig with it.

**Easter Flowers**  
**Easter Sunday 17th April 2022**

For some years we have collected money throughout Lent for flowers for Easter and often for a few Sundays after that. If you would like to donate towards these flowers, please send a cheque payable to **The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation**. Cash is also acceptable. Your donation can be in memory of someone. Thank you.



**BBC Radio 4 recording**

On Friday BBC Radio recorded a service in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula for Passion Sunday.



**Tracy's Garden –**

Tulips and Narcissi



## Jigsaw

The Gibraltar Regiment at the Tower of London <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3e53e789d410>



## Historic Royal Palaces - Iftar at the Tower of London



On Monday night, history was made at the Tower of London. In partnership with the Naz Legacy Foundation, HRP hosted the Interfaith Youth Iftar. It was a really joyful event, a true celebration of communities as people of all faiths and no faiths came together to talk about the climate crisis.

The event was attended by many different faith leaders, pictured outside the White Tower. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, was also in attendance, and stopped for a selfie with HRP staff.



## 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, Derek, Maria, Ann, Bridget and Peter.

### RIP Beryl Hale

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all those affected by Coronavirus and by the war in Ukraine.

### Our Coronavirus Prayer

God of love,  
We ask for your blessing on  
those who are ill,  
those who are vulnerable  
those who are worried about  
themselves and those they love,  
and on those who mourn.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### A Prayer 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, Roger



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