



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As we move into our fourth week of lockdown most of us are trying to get into some kind of routine, the weather has clearly helped. The team working on the Chapel Mailing list CML (Cortland, Colm, Debbie and myself) have appreciated your comments and I'm pleased to say that the list gets longer by the day – mostly thanks to you, who have passed them onto friends, family and neighbours.

I'm very pleased to report that Debbie (wife of the Chief Yeoman Warder, Pete) has returned to the Tower after her time in hospital. She has been very grateful for the prayers and good wishes of all those who have been thinking about her. Sadly, not all the news is good, prayers have been asked for people who are in hospital and those who have died.

I'm grateful to everyone who has contributed to this week's Newsletter, in particular to Judith and Eleanor. We look forward to welcoming baby Hazel to the chapel and congratulating Ali, Simon and Molly on the safe arrival of Hazel. If you have any good news to share, please get in touch.

I assure you both chapels are in good repair, the Crown Jewels are safely locked away and the 'Ceremony of the Keys' continues every night – twice I have been the only member of the public to take the salute, a humbling and emotional moment.

Barbara joins me in sending you our best wishes along with our thoughts and prayers for all those swept up in Covid 19.

Ethiopia – April 2019

This time last year many of you will recall that I set off after Easter on my three months 'Study Leave'. The first weeks were spent in Ethiopia visiting the world-famous town of Lalibela. Here a number of ancient rock churches, still used by the Coptic Church was my first port of call. Adjusting to the heat, the food and the difficult language proved a challenge. That said, the hospitality and kindness of the local people was at times overwhelming.



St George's Church Lalibela Ethiopia – Coptic Sunday morning service

The first service I attended lasted three hours; colourful, noisy and heart-warming it was a very different experience from the normal CofE diet I am used to! The Church (along with Market Day) are still the centre of life for all things in Ethiopia – rich and poor all attend. In a country so devoid of many of the things we are used to; church services, followed by communal eating and sharing together stories buss with excitement as they sit under their colourful umbrellas and sacred trees.

Thought for the Day

A Thought for the Day from Canon Roger Hall

<https://youtu.be/ocvmW630uHE>

Music for the Week, from Colm Carey

Slow Movement of Mozart's Clarinet

What I love about Mozart is how he creates such beauty in sound through the simplest of means - sculpting the most sublime phrases with a few consecutive notes and expressive harmonies. This movement typifies his heavenly mastery. I think the music speaks for itself so I shall leave the rest to your ears... I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_pTcHqWQ8o

Caption Time

Thank you for your replies to the photo of me in the Tower moat.

Some of the replies included –

Marguerite Smith - "Oh dear, I forgot the poop bags!"

Andrew Culpan - "Fancy a service!"

Ann-Marie Desmond - "Are you sure this is two metres?" and "Take me to your leader"

John Critchley - "If Rover can wear his full Covid protection gear, why can't Roger"



For this week – Reverend Cortland Fransella with 'homemade bread, feels like lead'.



Please send your caption in, let's see what you come up with?

An update from Reverend Cortland Fransella

NEWS FROM N8

Many of you will have seen the Andrea Bocelli 'Music for Hope' video from an empty Milan Cathedral - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTUOek4LgU>. There was great local email excitement where we live in N8 because, 21 minutes in, there is a shot of Crouch End's iconic clocktower. Who knows why? I can only assume that the director has a friend who lives in Crouch End, because we don't flatter ourselves that we are that famous otherwise. In normal times this would hardly have caused a ripple but we are not in normal times and little things like this break the lockdown monotony. We already had a thriving online community exchanging tips and offering unwanted items but it has now come into its own as a basis for mutual and charitable support. Two current initiatives are an unseasonable collection for our refuse and recycling operatives and, hot off the press, a pattern for creating makeshift Personal Protection Equipment plastic gowns out of shower curtains. Cue doctor advancing on patient, resplendent in luminous seahorses and goldfish. It all adds to life's rich pageant.

Keep safe and well,
Cortland and Laura.

Our Congregation

Each week I am going to ask members of our congregation to produce a short video telling us something of their situation.

These will be people you recognise, and I hope it will be another way of us keeping in touch with each other.
Please follow the link below for an update from Judith Philips (wife of YW Dave Phillips).

https://youtu.be/Oiq_kssD4-s

And the following link for an update from Eleanor Clarke, a well-known member of the Choir.

<https://youtu.be/CjHL2g5UXQI>

A new addition to the Chapel family



We look forward to welcoming Baby **Hazel Olive Heather Ponsford-Hill** to the Chapel, daughter of Ali and Simon and little sister to Molly.



Ali is a long-standing member of the Choir who many of you may recognise.

Hazel was born at 11.11am on 11th April 2020. She was 8lbs so a good healthy size and is continuing to be really well.

A Prayer

Please continue to remember those on our sick list – some of whom are very poorly
Isabelle, Rustom, Jo, Rory, Lucy, Judy, Neil, Margaret, Leon, Susan, Theodore, John, Neil, Margaret, Noel, Denise and Hannah.

Those affected by the coronavirus.

**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 for those who mourn.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

With best wishes and prayers, Roger.

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