



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

## Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

This week I have chosen a poem by Sasha Moorsom. Sasha saw this poem as a reminder of immortality and was said at her funeral.

Sasha loved birds, they seemed to represent the freedom of spirit; she watched them from her kitchen window and fed them regularly.

### The Company of the Birds

Ah the company of the birds  
I loved and cherished on earth  
Now, freed of flesh we fly  
Together, a flock of beating wings,  
I am as light, as feathery,  
As gone from gravity we soar  
In endless circles.

Sasha Moorsom 1931-1993.

### Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella <https://youtu.be/e0EL097Wq58>

### Music for the Week, from Colm Carey

**Morgen - Richard Strauss (1864 - 1949)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQP01pJQA7s>

This beautiful love song was written by Strauss as a wedding present to his wife Pauline, and is sung here by the unmatched Jessye Norman. I will say no more. The music speaks for itself..

### **Morgen!**

Und morgen wird die Sonne wieder scheinen  
und auf dem Wege, den ich gehen werde,  
wird uns, die Glücklichen sie wieder einen  
inmitten dieser sonnenatmenden Erde...  
und zu dem Strand, dem weiten, wogenblauen,  
werden wir still und langsam niedersteigen,  
stumm werden wir uns in die Augen schauen,  
und auf uns sinkt des Glückes stummes Schweigen...

## **Tomorrow!**

Tomorrow again will shine the sun  
And on my sunlit path of earth  
Unite us again, as it has done,  
And give our bliss another birth...  
The spacious beach under wave-blue skies  
We'll reach by descending soft and slow,  
And mutely gaze in each other's eyes,  
As over us rapture's great hush will flow.

## **Archaeological excavations outside the Chapel of Saint Peter ad Vincula**

Last year, HRP conducted an archaeological excavation outside the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula. During this excavation, performed as part of works to improve access into the building, the team discovered the complete remains of two individuals.

The two skeletons, an adult female and a young child, were found lying on their backs facing up or 'supine' with their feet facing east, typical of normal Christian burial practice. The team found coffin nails surrounding the adult female, suggesting she was interred within a coffin. No similar evidence was found surrounding the child and so it is likely they were simply wrapped in a blanket or 'shrouded' prior to being buried.

The burials were cut through a possible medieval mortar floor surface that could be the remains of Edward I's chapel in the Tower, constructed between 1286-7. The date of these remains, based upon their position within the sequence of soil or 'stratigraphy' of the area, is thought to be between 1450 and 1550.

The remains, after being analysed, were reinterred in the crypt of the chapel at a special ceremony conducted by The Reverend Canon Roger Hall MBE on 10 September 2019.

The skeleton of an adult female aged between 35 and 45 located outside the western entrance of the Chapel Royal of Saint Peter ad Vincula (©Historic Royal Palaces)



## **Jigsaw Puzzle**



<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=109c911e8663>

This week's jigsaw is based on a picture taken by a member of our congregation, Marguerite Smith.

"Raven on cannon in front of White Tower.

You can see from the clock in the background I was just leaving after Sunday 11.00 service - 12.15 - on 12th May 2019."

## Wordsearch

Here is a wordsearch based on the names of 16 of the individual towers within the Tower of London. You may come across other real words but they do not count. Sorry! Print the page off to solve the puzzle. Have fun! The solution will be in next week's Newsletter.

### TOWERS IN THE TOWER

H Q I U P K C O N S T A B L E  
C B T L A H N L O Q N J B J B  
M O F V P M A H C U A E B N Z  
W W R Y O N B K V Z Q V F Z K  
U Y N I T R A M N V N L Y D I  
K E W H N G A J S A B K N E P  
Q R O E I W M T D U L P P L G  
T R K L L E B R R U O E L I Q  
N N C P G L A W S N O M G F X  
U M I O J W V H J J D H E E P  
O P R L Y V W I B T Y T K K P  
Z D B B F V G T V L E L W A T  
T W D E V E R E U X Q A E W V  
X V N V H E O M L J M S J B O  
N P R W O R R A D A O R B Q K

BYWARD  
BEAUCHAMP  
BELL  
DEVEREUX  
FLINT  
BOWYER  
BRICK  
WELL  
MARTIN  
CONSTABLE  
BROADARROW  
SALT  
LANTHORN  
WAKEFILED  
BLOODY  
WHITE

### Solution to last week's wordsearch

Monuments and Brasses in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

C Y T V A N E H N K N O Z y P  
Q M I T V L I I C P L V Z P N  
L G R T W M W E Q E L I O T C  
I R E T N Y R U B R E V O L H  
A M H M B U N O C D W P R F O  
I P S H F E O A J L M W Y G L  
R X I O I M T L K U O V D M M  
E I F W D I G J B S R H N D O  
L M X A O S N H V Q C V A J N  
Y O Q R Q Y I L W L Y O L X D  
A R R R D E F L Y E F E B L N E  
P E X O E N L Z M R R N O C L  
P O Q L D M E K U D G E H F E  
T I O E I E W P Z D P X V N Y  
U P G R U O M Y E S O B A N P

## 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.



**Bernard Jackson** – I am pleased to report that Bernard is doing well. After over 50 years attendance at the chapel and as Chapel Sacristan Bernard is keeping safe and well. He sends everyone his best wishes.

**Debbie Corbett** – Please follow the link <https://youtu.be/c-0BTIY-f9w> for a video from our Chapel Administrator

## A Prayer

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

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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