



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

In the following extract from his poem 'Kneeling', the poet priest R.S Thomas is on his knees before an altar in a country church, 'waiting for the God/To speak. In an echo of St Augustine's request 'Save me God, but not yet'. Thomas says 'Prompt me God/but not yet'. He knows that God could speak through him, as a priest, but that is not what he wants. The last line reveals, paradoxically, that for him 'The meaning is the waiting'. Not the fulfilment. In terms of relevance for us, maybe the experience of lockdown has deepened our understanding of 'waiting'. There were those who felt that it enabled us to live more fully in the present, giving time for ourselves and for God, without rushing to the next goal, or seeking instant gratification of our desires and needs.

It is possible that the easing of lockdown has not brought the sense of fulfilment and release that were anticipated. When the pace of life reasserts itself again, we could, like Thomas, continue to take time to seek God's voice in the stillness of the present moment. Roger.

Kneeling

Moments of great calm,
Kneeling before an altar
Of wood in a stone church
In summer, waiting for the God
To speak.....
.....Prompt me, God;
But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting.

R.S Thomas 1913-2000

Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella <https://youtu.be/I7D9UshYyfo>

Music for the Week, from Colm Carey

Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten - Arvo Pärt (b.1935)

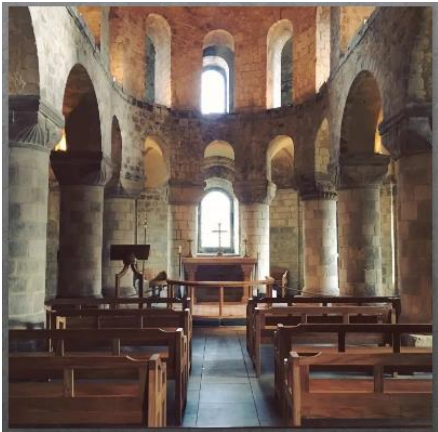
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sp2oxWdRMuk>

The **Cantus in Memoriam Benjamin Britten** was composed as an elegy to mourn the death of the English composer Benjamin Britten in 1976. Pärt greatly admired Britten and described him as possessing the "unusual purity" that he himself sought as a composer. When Britten died, Pärt felt that he had lost hope of meeting the only contemporary composer whose musical outlook, he believed, resembled his own.

Cantus is an early example of Pärt's Tintinnabuli style, which he based on his reactions to early chant music. Its appeal is often ascribed to its relative simplicity; a single melodic motif dominates and it both begins and ends with scored silence. However, as the critic Ivan Hewett observes, while it "may be simple in concept...the concept produces a tangle of lines which is hard for the ear to unravel. And even where the music really is simple in its audible features, the expressive import of those features is anything but".

Jigsaw Puzzle

Back by popular demand! Reverend Cortland Fransella has made another jigsaw puzzle that you can do on your computer. This week the picture is of The Chapel of St John the Evangelist.



Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch with 16 words to do with chapel and church. Print it off and see if you can find them all. You may find other real words in the grid but you do not get any credit for those! Solution next week.

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

- CHALICE
- PATEN
- CRUET
- HOST
- WAFER
- WATER
- WINE
- HASSOCK
- CHASUBLE
- ALB
- CASSOCK
- SURPLICE
- COTTA
- STOLE
- SCARF
- ORFREY

Solution to last week's wordsearch

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

New Chapel Lectern

To mark the 500th Anniversary of the chapel a new Lectern has been purchased. Built in a traditional form, it has been made from the same wood as other furniture in the chapel. We look forward to using it.



Book Review – 'Faith in The City of London'.

Nicki Gorick has written the following book which I commend to you and you might find quite interesting. 'Faith in The City of London' illustrates the unique interaction between faith and commerce in The Square Mile and the surprisingly vibrant and diverse spiritual life within London's financial centre.

The book has been beautifully produced by Unicorn Publishing, with over 170 photographs and a foreword by the Lord Mayor.

The book is available to buy online from both Waterstones and Amazon. Unicorn Publishing is also offering it at a discounted rate on their own website: <https://www.unicornpublishing.org/page/detail/Faith-in-the-City-of-London/?K=9781912690732>.

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.

This week we hear from **Paul Barnes**: <https://youtu.be/obsC1iUIBqA>

Tower of London

Many of you will know Chief Yeoman Warder Pete McGowran. Follow the link for a video from him about the Tower under lock down and how the Yeoman Body have been preparing for reopening.

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/CBnyq1why6n/?igshid=n81sydezc626>

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,
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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<https://www.thechapelsroyalhmtoweroflondon.org.uk/>