



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

My daughter Beth who lives in Hong Kong and teaches English, follows each week the Chapel Mailing. She has followed with interest the poems I have chosen. Recently she commented '*dad, why are there no women poet's in your selection of poets*' – my reply was, '*you choose one, and I'll use it*'.
So, this week I am grateful to Beth for her selection-

Gillian Clarke is a Welsh poet and was the National Poet of Wales from 2008-2016. In the poem, *The Habit of Light*, an elegy to her mother, Clarke celebrates her mother through the prism of domestic life. Though many of us may be finding it hard to celebrate the domestic, having been confined to this sphere during the period of lockdown, the poem reminds us of the simple joys of the home as 'the kettle purred on the Aga' and I wonder how many of us have mastered 'the buttery melt of a pie' during our lockdown experiments in the kitchen? There is also something of a routine in the poem as Clarke remembers her mother's habit of switching on the lamps in the evening and drawing the curtains at dawn. The light imagery in the poem is striking and hopeful, concluding with the beautiful reference to the mother's 'habit of light.' For those of us separated from family during this period, the tone of fondness and affection in Clarke's loving evocation of her mother's habits may be familiar to many of us as we think of our loved ones and look forward to seeing them soon.

The Habit of Light by Gillian Clarke

In the early evening, she liked to switch on the lamps
in corners, on low tables, to show off her brass,
her polished furniture, her silver and glass.
At dawn she'd draw all the curtains back for a glimpse
of the cloud-lit sea. Her oak floors flickered
in an opulence of beeswax and light.
In the kitchen, saucepans danced their lids, the kettle purred
on the Aga, supper on its breath and the buttery melt
of a pie, and beyond the swimming glass of old windows,
in the deep perspective of the garden, a blackbird singing,
she'd come through the bean rows in tottering shoes,
her pinny full of strawberries, a lettuce, bringing
the palest potatoes in a colander, her red hair bright
with her habit of colour, her habit of light.

Chapel Opening

Those of you on the Chapel Mailing will have received a recent mailing informing you of our reopening. Please would you take note of the details for these two Sundays – the 19th and 26th July.

If you would like to attend please email Debbie, who will send you a confirmation email. As space is limited you will need your space to be confirmed by Debbie before attending. Thank you.

Patronal Festival

This year we should have been celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the chapel of St Peter-ad-Vincula. The Patronal Festival, in July, should have been one of our highlights. When we return after the summer break, I will be discussing with the Chapel Committee how we might be able to celebrate our Patronal Festival in the Autumn.

Chapel Mailing

The Chapel Mailing will stop during the August break and will resume again in September.

Food Bank Update

Please see a video from Gill Howard with an update about the food bank

<https://youtu.be/vz0eY00UnMc>

If you would like to donate to the work of the **First Love Foundation** and the **LOVE Summer Project** in particular, the easiest way is to use the link below. If you would rather send a cheque, please make it payable to **First Love Foundation** and post it to:



First Love Foundation
Unit C18
Poplar Business Park
10, Prestons Road
E14 9RL

<https://firstlovefoundation.enthuse.com/cf/lovesummer2020>

If you would like the money go to the **LOVE Summer Project** then please say so in your correspondence. Thank you. Gill.

Thought for the Day

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

Music for the Week, from Christian Wilson

Commotio - Carl Nielsen (1865 - 1931)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KM_WfaN9c0

Performed by Christian Wilson on the organ of the Church of Saint-Martin, Dudelange, Luxembourg

Christian writes -

In his masterful survey of Nielsen's music, Robert Simpson writes of Commotio: "there is a glorious feeling of infinite expansion and freedom from haste...no one hearing this superbly affirmative music would think that it is by one whose time was running desperately short." Nielsen's health was indeed in terminal decline and the choice of church and organ to convey such imposing symphonic scale in his final work was surely no accident. Nielsen was adamant that this music encapsulated all that was essential to his compositional voice, using the title 'Commotio' as "an expression for self-objectivisation" and alluding to an inevitable linear current through the work, expanding towards the ultimate chord and beyond. The work is structured rather like a grand Toccata in the style of Buxtehude or Bach, beginning with a pedal over which detailed figurations emerge. Motivic ideas coalesce around two fugues to which Nielsen suggests that "the introduction, linking movements and coda cling like creepers to the trunks of a forest". It is easy to draw on parallels with the first and fifth symphonies, through

scale and the metamorphosis of motivic ideas, and it's tempting to think that Commotio might have formed the basis of a final seventh symphony had ill health not intervened.

On hearing Nielsen's music, I often sense an ideological affinity to Teilhard de Chardin's notion of theocosmogenesis and the Omega point; an apex point of ultimate consciousness in the future, as yet unclear, but contingent upon the synthesis or accruegment of thought towards a knowing God, whose love has predetermined that same current or strand. This 'point' - as yet indistinguishable in its ultimate complexion - is made tangible by a lure and momentum analogous to Christ's love, that is so strong and constant as to be vital and inextinguishable.

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 the Chapel Exterior South East corner

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1fe140a7f14c>

Tower of London

The Tower of London is reopening to the public on Friday 10th July. If you would like to visit, you can find more details, and purchase tickets, here - <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/#gs.9m1ffw>

Tickets will need to be purchased in advance of visiting.



Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch with 16 Countries of the Commonwealth. Print it off and see if you can find them all. Words may run in any direction, including diagonals. You may find other real words in the grid but you do not get any credit for those! Solution next week.

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

- AUSTRALIA
- MALAYSIA
- BARBADOS
- MOZAMBIQUE
- CANADA
- NEW ZEALAND
- FIJI
- SAMOA
- GREAT BRITAIN
- ST LUCIA
- GRENADA
- SINGAPORE
- JAMAICA
- SOUTH AFRICA

Solution to last week's wordsearch

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

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.



Canon Roger J Hall MBE

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