



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

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

I am writing this right on the cusp of the announcement about which Tier we will be in. On the assumption that we are in Tier 2, church services will resume on the 6th December. At the moment, if the Tower is closed, then the chapels will also be closed.

Important. I am trying hard to gauge if we should have four members of the choir here on the 24th December for the 5pm Christmas Eve service. This puts pressure on Colm to find four choir members to sing (when like others, they will want to see their family) but there is also the expense. Please could you let me, or Debbie, know if you are thinking of coming to that service.

Cortland and I have been talking about this Government survey, if you have a moment please do respond to it. The Government is conducting a survey on the place in society of faith and faith communities. It is important that church people respond to this, not least because groups like the National Secular Society have mobilised their members to use it to make negative responses about faith in society (see: [Review to consider government's engagement with faith groups - National Secular Society \(secularism.org.uk\)](#)). See also, for example, the website of the Humanists UK: [Our campaigns » Humanists UK \(humanism.org.uk\)](#).

There is plenty of evidence of the positive value that the church provides to society as a whole and this has been especially evident during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is even possible to put a monetary value on this – see, for example: [Churches' £12.4 billion contribution to UK is under threat, Archbishops warn \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](#). You can find plenty of stories about the significant contribution that the Church of England alone is making to relieve distress during the pandemic, such as: [Churches providing free meals for children amid half-term holiday hunger fears | The Church of England](#). Synagogues, Sikh gurdwaras, mosques and Hindu temples all operate similar schemes. The various faith communities contribute a massive amount to society, just in material terms.

It is clear that faith communities are a fundamentally important element in social cohesion and good citizenship. The current Government survey is designed to harvest comments from individuals. It is important that all people of faith should respond, so that the Government can work with reliable and representative views of the majority and not just those of the noisy minority hostile to all forms of faith.

The link is at: [Independent Faith Engagement Review: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The survey closes on the evening of 11 December. It is not very well designed but it is what it is. Do complete the survey and spread the word to your friends.

This week's poem is an Advent poem and is written by George Herbert.

The Glance

When first thy sweet and gracious eye
Vouchsaf'd ev'n in the midst of youth and night
To look upon me, who before did lie
Weltring in sinne;

I felt a sugred strange delight,
Passing all cordials made by any art,
Bedew, embalme, and overrunne my heart,
And take it in.

Since that time many a bitter storm
My soul hath felt, ev'n able to destroy,
Had the malicious and ill-meaning harm
His swing and sway:

But still thy sweet originall joy
Sprung from thine eye, did work within my soul,
And surging griefs, when they grew bold, controll,
And got the day.

If thy first glance so powerfull be,
A mirth but open'd and seal'd up again;
What wonders shall we feel, when we shall see
Thy full-ey'd love!

When thou shalt look us out of pain,
And one aspect of thine spend in delight
More then a thousand sunnes disburse in light,
In heav'n above

George Herbert



Jigsaw Puzzle

This week's jigsaw is a picture of the Advent wreath inside the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=026b4484ee4e>

Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella

<https://youtu.be/GJ4ADABY6FI>

Music from Master of Music, Colm Carey

Concerto for 2 Violins, Largo, BWV 1043 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Performed by Voices of Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzTwO0zWrqU>

Feeding the five thousand

We thought this might make you laugh in these strange times.



Historic Royal Palaces – Christmas shop Online

Pictured are some of the fun Christmas tree decorations that you can shop online at

<https://www.historicroyalpalaces.com/>



Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch with 16 types of ship or boat. 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.

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

BARGE
CANOE
CARRIER
CORACLE
CORVETTE
CRUISER
DUGOUT
KETCH
LAUNCH
LIGHTER
MINESWEEPER
RAFT
SCHOONER
SKIFF
SUBMARINE
TANKER
TRIEME
YACHT

Solution to last week's Wordsearch

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

RIP Paul Kumble. Della Howard. Susan Doughty.

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/>