



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

## Weekly Newsletter



*“Watch and pray you may be ready for the coming of Christ”*

Dear Friends,

Now that London has gone into Tier 3 The Tower of London is closed. Therefore, there is no service in The Tower this coming Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 4. At present, the Christmas Eve service at 5pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas morning service at 1000am will still be taking place.

Services in the chapel should resume on the 10<sup>th</sup> January but we will have to wait and see what happens after Christmas.

This coming Sunday there will be an on-line service. Please do watch the HRP Carol Service on the 21<sup>st</sup> December – details below, featuring our choir and Hampton Court choir and please pass it onto anyone you think might enjoy listening to it.

With best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

Despite his reputation for being one of the world’s crummiest poets, RS Thomas wrote some beautiful Christmas poems and this one Song, is one of my favourite. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

### Song

I choose white, but with  
Red on it, like the snow  
In winter with its few  
Holly berries and the one  
Robin, that is a fire  
To warm by and like Christ  
Comes to us in his weakness,  
But with a sharp song.  
*RS Thomas – written in 1972*



## Thought for the Day

From Canon Roger Hall

<https://youtu.be/61nxtEMnuFE>



## Music for the week, from the Master of Music

<https://youtu.be/7TS-f67GLVA>

This week features two of 'Ten Blake Songs' (1872 - 1958) composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams - fittingly - over Christmas in 1957. The songs are unusual in that they are for a solo voice (either Soprano or Tenor) duetting with an oboe, and we are very grateful to our own Steven Harrold, and his wife Rachel (what a duo!) who have recorded 'The Lamb' and 'The Piper' especially for us.

### **The Lamb**

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing woolly, bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee :  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls Himself a Lamb.  
He is meek, and he is mild:  
He became a little child.  
I a child, and thou a Lamb,  
We are called by His name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee!  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!

### **The Piper**

Piping down the valleys wild,  
Piping songs of pleasant glee,  
On a cloud I saw a child,  
And he laughing said to me:  
"Pipe a song about a Lamb."  
So I piped with merry cheer.  
"Piper, pipe that song again;"  
So I piped: he wept to hear.  
"Drop thy pipe, thy happy pipe;  
Sing thy songs of happy cheer:"  
So I sang the same again,  
While he wept with joy to hear.  
"Piper, sit thee down, and write  
In a book, that all may read."  
So he vanished from my sight,  
And I plucked a hollow reed,  
And I made a rural pen,  
And I stained the water clear,  
And I wrote my happy songs  
Every child may joy to hear.

## Jigsaw Puzzle

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3c825286420f>



This week's jigsaw puzzle is a selection of Advent windows in Cortland and Laura's road, North London.

## Christmas Carols – 6pm, 21<sup>st</sup> December



We are delighted to invite you to join us at 18.00 on December 21st for the premiere of 'Christmas Carols from the Palaces', a special online broadcast of a traditional Christmas programme of Nine Lessons and Carols recorded in the Chapels Royal at the Tower of London, and also from the Chapel Royal at Hampton Court Palace.

The service is co-ordinated by Historic Royal Palaces, the charity that cares for the Tower and Hampton Court. It is free to watch, and donations are encouraged. The proceeds will be shared equally among the Chapel at the Tower, the Chapel at Hampton Court, and Historic Royal Palaces.

If you can't join us on the 21st at 18.00 (or would like to watch the service again), the video will be available until midnight on 4 January.

You will be able to watch the service at [www.hrp.org.uk/christmas-carols-from-the-palaces](http://www.hrp.org.uk/christmas-carols-from-the-palaces)

Whilst we cannot all gather to celebrate Christmas in quite the same way this year, I hope this online service will go some way to bringing both the joy of Christmas and the wonders of the Tower into your hearts.

## Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch with 16 types of sports or events. 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.

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| Q | U | A | H | V | A | N | S | P | U | N | J | Y | P | U |
| U | B | K | O | Y | N | O | H | T | A | R | A | M | K | R |
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| J | E | N | X | P | E | U | C | R | O | I | B | L | A | Z |
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| E | H | U | F | V | H | O | C | K | E | Y | X | K | Y | T |
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ATHLETICS  
 BOXING  
 CANOEING  
 DODGEBALL  
 EQUESTRIANISM  
 FENCING  
 GOLF  
 HANDBALL  
 HOCKEY  
 HURDLES  
 JAVELIN  
 JUDO  
 KORFBALL  
 MARATHON  
 RELAY  
 RUGBY  
 SAILING  
 TRIATHLON

## Solution to last week's Wordsearch

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| G | T | C | R | I | K | V | E | L | U | Y | O | C | A | K |
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| E | E | O | O | O | E | E | T | A | N | A | M | M | E | X |
| L | E | Z | A | G | Y | P | R | I | Z | M | U | K | K | I |
| L | B | O | E | T | N | A | H | P | E | L | E | L | E | L |

## **A Prayer**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list – some of whom are very poorly

Isabelle, Rustom, Jo, Rory, Lucy, Judy, Neil, Fiona, Pat and Tony.

RIP 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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