



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

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year. And so, the next Lockdown has begun. After thorough discussions here at the Tower I have decided that the chapel will remain closed throughout January. There is nothing wrong with being 'cautious and careful' and I will review the situation at the end of January, with the hope of starting public worship again on the 7th February.

Until then we will continue to produce:

1. Tuesday: A thought for the Day
2. Thursday: The Newsletter
3. Sunday: An Online Service

Please be assured, the moment we can resume public worship, we will do.

Stewardship Giving

Several people over Christmas asked about supporting the chapel as they had not given anything financially to the chapel since last March. I am very grateful to all those of you who have continued to support us with the 'CAF Giving Scheme' and to those who have sent the occasional cheque.

If you would like to make a donation, or catchup on your giving, the easiest way is online at:

<https://www.thechapelsroyalhmtoweroflondon.org.uk/donate/giving-by-direct-debit/>

By donating online this means that you can Gift Aid your donation.

Or alternatively you can make a bank transfer:

Sort Code 40-52-40 Account number 0027597

Whilst not obligatory, it would help me if you could let me know if you have donated something to the chapel. Through your giving we have continued to pay the Chapel Stipends and a part payment to the members of the choir. Thank you.

Please don't hesitate in contacting me if you would like to, about anything. I'm always pleased to hear from you and as the year moves on, let us pray it won't be long before life begins to start to look like it once did.

With my fond wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

Thought for the Day

From Canon Roger Hall

<https://youtu.be/Rp86-7hA4I8>

Jigsaw Puzzle

This week's jigsaw is a picture of our socially distanced choir.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=080413c3abc3>



George Mackay Brown (17 October 1921 – 13 April 1996) was a Scottish poet, author and dramatist, whose work has a distinctly Orcadian character. He is considered one of the great Scottish poets of the 20th century.

Epiphany Poem

The red king
Came to a great water. He said,
Here the journey ends.
No keel or skipper on this shore.

The yellow king
Halted under a hill. He said,
Turn the camels round.
Beyond, ice summits only.

The black king
Knocked on a city gate. He said,
All roads stop here.
These are gravestones, no inn.

The three kings
Met under a dry star.
There, at midnight,
The star began its singing.

The three kings
Suffered salt, snow, skulls.
They suffered the silence
Before the first word.

George Mackay Brown

Music for the week, from the Master of Music

Variations on 'Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern' - Samuel Scheidt (1587 - 1654)

Paolo Crivellaro plays the organ of Sint Janskerk, Gouda

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEKNQqVrhd4>

With the advent of the German reformed protestant church, composers in North Germany moved away from the models of catholic Southern Europe and the influence of Rome, and created their own compositional styles. Samuel Scheidt, a pupil of Sweelinck, developed the character of organ music in this period into a fully-fledged school of composition called the North German Style. The Lutheran Chorale became an integral part of worship in the new protestant church and it became popular for organists to both improvise and create compositions based on these pillars of the new liturgy. Here is one such composition - a set of variations - based on the Epiphany hymn we know as 'How brightly shines the morning star'.

Pictures from our Christmas Eve service

We were able to hold a small Christmas Eve service and Christmas morning service. Thank you to those of you that were able to attend.



Thoughts on lockdown

A friend sent me the text below, and I wanted to share it with you. Lockdown can be a difficult time for all of us, and affects us all in different ways.

Working parents want kids to go back to school because school closures directly impacts them.

Teachers don't want schools open because covid spreading around their school directly impacts them.

NHS staff want a full lockdown because sick covid patients directly impacts them.

Business owners want to carry on as normal because lockdown directly impacts them.

People with physical health problems want everyone to stay socially distant because catching covid could kill them.

People with mental health problems want people to spend time with because isolation could kill them.

Some can't wait for a vaccine because they believe it will bring back some normality.

Some are terrified of a vaccine because they believe it could harm them.

We are all going through this but none of us are going through the same thing. Some face crippling financial challenges, other face heart break. We don't all have to agree with what is best because what's best for us won't be best for everyone. We don't have to understand what others are going through. But we do need to stick together and keep loving each other no matter our differences. We need to be mindful when some things go the way we want it to, it could be terrible news to another person. We need to be kind.

(Author unknown.)

Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch of 16 words associated with New Year. 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.

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

BALLOON
 BELLS
 CEILIDH
 CELEBRATION
 CHAMPAGNE
 CHIMES
 COAL
 COUNTDOWN
 FIREWORKS
 HOGMANAY
 MIDNIGHT
 PARTY
 PROSPEROUS
 RESOLUTION
 STREAMER
 WHISKY

Solution to last week's Wordsearch

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

A Prayer

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

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

RIP for all those who have died from the coronavirus

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/>