



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

Dear Friends,

**‘Alleluia, Christ is risen – He is risen indeed, Alleluia’**

Those of you who were in church on 15 May will have had the pleasure of listening to our guest preacher the Reverend Canon Faeq Haddad from Amman in Jordan. Some of us had met him when we were on pilgrimage there in March and we were fortunate that he was able to spare us time whilst he was in the UK to attend a high-level meeting in Cambridge of the Bible Society, called to address issues facing Christians in the Middle East. In his sermon, Canon Faeq reminded us that the Middle East is the cradle of Christianity and that Christians have been there since the time of our Lord’s earthly ministry. Numbers of Christians in the region have dwindled significantly in recent years. You can hear former Archbishop Rowan Williams talking about this on the website of the organisation [Embrace the Middle East](#). Canon Faeq was accompanied by his friend Huda Nassar, Director of the Middle East for the [Awareness Foundation](#), an international humanitarian charity driven by Christian values which builds peace through education and training.



Canon Faeq Haddad with Roger and Cortland



Huda Nassar with Canon Faeq Haddad, Roger and Cortland

Hearing the words of Canon Faeq and former Archbishop Rowan Williams reminds us how fortunate we are as Christians in this country. Do remember our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East in your prayers. You may want to consider supporting [Embrace the Middle East](#).

With all good wishes,  
Cortland.

### **Sunday Service Details**

The fifth Sunday after Easter

**0915** Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula  
**1100** Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula (Preacher The Rt Rev Rob Gillion)  
**1215** Holy Baptism

Psalm 67

#### **Readings**

Acts 16: 9-15.

John 5: 1-9

#### **Collect for the 5th Sunday after Easter**

O Lord, from whom all good things do come;  
grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy  
holy inspiration we may think those things that  
be good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform  
the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival** **Crown, Coronation, Commonwealth**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Free to visit as a Tower of London ticket holder throughout the day



Regular members of our congregation are invited to attend an  
**Evening Viewing of the Flower Festival and drinks reception**  
in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

on

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July**  
**7pm**

Limited availability

Please email me on [TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk](mailto:TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk) to be added  
to the guest list

## Important dates for your diary

### Thursday 26th May

Ascension Day and the Beating of the Bounds. Following a short Evensong at 6pm, the congregation will make their way to Tower Hill where we will meet our friends from All Hallows by the Tower and 'beat our bounds' with ceremony and fun. This will again be recorded for the next programme about The Tower. Do come and join us.

### Sunday 5th June

Jubilee Weekend and State Parade for Whit Sunday.

### Tuesday 5th July

Patronal Festival with the former Bishop of London, The Rt Rev and Rt Hon The Lord Richard Chartres as our preacher. Please email me in advance on [TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk](mailto:TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk) to be added to the guest list. Places are limited.

## Poem by U A Fanthorpe – Not my Best Side

Ursula Askham Fanthorpe (1929 – 2009), who published as U A Fanthorpe, spent her earliest years in Kent. After attending St Anne's College, Oxford she became a teacher and ultimately Head of English at Cheltenham Ladies' College. She only began writing when she turned her back on her teaching career to become a receptionist at a psychiatric hospital where her observation of the 'strange specialness' of the patients provided the inspiration for her first book, *Side Effects*. Since that relatively late start, Fanthorpe was prolific, producing nine full-length collections, including the Forward Prize-nominated *Safe as Houses* and the Poetry Book Society Recommendation *Consequences*. She was appointed CBE in 2001 and awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 2003. Here, she offers a typically wry view of the depiction by Paolo Uccello (1397 – 1475) of St George rescuing the maiden from the dragon. After reading this poem, it's hard to look at the painting in the same way ever again.



I

Not my best side, I'm afraid.  
The artist didn't give me a chance to  
pose properly, and as you can see,  
poor chap, he had this obsession with  
triangles, so he left off two of my  
feet. I didn't comment at the time  
(what, after all, are two feet  
to a monster?) but afterwards  
I was sorry for the bad publicity.  
Why, I said to myself, should my conqueror  
be so ostentatiously beardless, and ride

a horse with a deformed neck and square hoofs?

Why should my victim be so  
unattractive as to be inedible,  
and why should she have me literally  
on a string? I don't mind dying  
ritually, since I always rise again,  
but I should have liked a little more blood  
to show they were taking me seriously.

## II

It's hard for a girl to be sure if  
she wants to be rescued. I mean, I quite  
took to the dragon. It's nice to be  
liked, if you know what I mean. He was  
so nicely physical, with his claws  
and lovely green skin, and that sexy tail,  
and the way he looked at me,  
he made me feel he was all ready to  
eat me. And any girl enjoys that.  
So when this boy turned up, wearing machinery,  
on a really dangerous horse, to be honest  
I didn't much fancy him. I mean,  
what was he like underneath the hardware?  
He might have acne, blackheads or even  
bad breath for all I could tell, but the dragon-  
well, you could see all his equipment  
at a glance. Still, what could I do?  
The dragon got himself beaten by the boy,  
and a girl's got to think of her future.

## III

I have diplomas in Dragon  
Management and Virgin Reclamation.  
My horse is the latest model, with  
automatic transmission and built-in  
obsolescence. My spear is custom-built,  
and my prototype armour  
still on the secret list. You can't  
do better than me at the moment.  
I'm qualified and equipped to the  
eyebrow. So why be difficult?  
Don't you want to be killed and/or rescued  
in the most contemporary way? Don't  
you want to carry out the roles  
that sociology and myth have designed for you?  
Don't you realize that, by being choosy,  
you are endangering job prospects  
in the spear- and horse-building industries?  
What, in any case, does it matter what  
you want? You're in my way.



## Platinum Jubilee Medals

On Wednesday, the Constable of the Tower presented Debbie with her Platinum Jubilee Medal.



## Tracy's Garden – Irises



## Jigsaw

Tulips at Hampton Court Palace

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=20e7d422113a>



## Horace the Rat

Placed on the Chaplains shoulder by a gentleman of the road at Embankment station



## **Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very poorly, amongst whom we name: Deborah, Heather, Pat, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Judy, Dan, Derek, Ann and Peter.

## **RIP**

Steve Davidson, Charles Fullbrook, Bob Wainwright

## **Please continue to pray for Ukraine:**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace.

for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace.

**Amen**

With best wishes and prayers, Roger.



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