



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

Dear Friends,

The Prime Ministers 'Road Map' gives us cause for hope and along with the vaccination programme, hopefully, light at the end of this long and hard pandemic tunnel. In the coming weeks and months, we will still need to be cautious and careful about how things open up, including those churches presently closed. To that end, I am exploring the idea of us being open for Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The 28<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> April. All the restrictions and care that we took last autumn will again apply. As several people have said, it is better to be accused of being cautious than being accused of behaving irresponsibly. I know that most churches, and the Chapel Royal, are planning on opening for Easter, if possible?

The Tower community was saddened to hear that Dr John McGrath died last Friday. Our neighbour and friend, Dr John had served the community for over 30 years. There will be a private family cremation and later in the year a service of thanksgiving for his service to the Tower community here at St Peter-ad-Vincula. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mida and his family.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

This week's poem is Robert Hayden: -

**Robert Hayden** (August 4, 1913 – February 25, 1980) was an American poet, essayist, and educator. He served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 1976 to 1978, a role today known as US Poet Laureate. He was the first Black African-American writer to hold the office.

**Those Winter Sundays**

Sundays too my father got up early  
and put on his clothes on in the blueblack cold,  
then with cracked hands that dress  
from labor in the weekday weather made  
banked fires blazed. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking  
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  
and slowly I would rise and dress,  
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,  
who had driven out the cold  
and polished my good shoes as well.  
What did I know, what did I know  
of love's austere and lonely officers?

Robert Hayden 1913 - 1980

## Canon Roger Hall and Deputy Governor Debra Whittingham at the Tower Pet Cemetery and Merlina's headstone



### Thought for the Day

From Reverend Cortland Fransella  
<https://youtu.be/7GW5Ou0RiRg>

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

#### **Miserere (Psalm 51) - James MacMillan (b.1959)**

Sofia Vokalensemble / Bengt Ollén, director

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st2E\\_uhy5Mo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=st2E_uhy5Mo)

A couple of weeks ago I shared with you the sublime setting of Psalm 51 (Miserere mei) by Gregorio Allegri. This week I have chosen a setting of the same text by one of UK's great composers - James MacMillan. MacMillan has added a large corpus of work to the sacred choral repertory, including the Te Deum, commissioned in 2001 for our choir and chapel. His deep christian faith permeates all his composition and encapsulates a profound sense of spirituality and mysticism. His setting of Psalm 51 is a substantial work and features many characteristics of the composer's mature choral style. Listen for snippets of folk-like melodies; Scotch-snap rhythms; bitonality (where the music is in two different keys at the same time); canonic writing (where the singers imitate each other precisely); the use of the original plainchant melody (perhaps raising his hat to Allegri?!). As with all Macmillan's music there are moments of sublime peacefulness, beautifully contoured and melismatic melodies, tortured tension and extreme passion and drama. His compositions can, for some, be challenging to listen to, but the challenge (to me) is akin to the challenge of faith. It is a struggle sometimes, and there is no certainty as to where the journey will lead you, but that is precisely why one must hold faith. It is this very struggle, central to Christianity, that is portrayed and illuminated in MacMillan's music.

## Jigsaw Puzzle

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=25dc38a762b8>



Here's a sight for sore eyes... the first signs of spring are emerging at Hampton Court Palace.

Around this time each year, hardy cyclamens are the first to bring splashes of colour back to The Wilderness and their arrival means the daffodils are just around the corner!

## Historic Royal Palaces

This week HRP are celebrating the anniversary of one of our all-time favourite Tower of London tales.

Meet Winifred Maxwell, Countess of Nithsdale, who on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February in 1716, successfully smuggled her condemned husband out of the Tower disguised as a woman, the day before he was due to be executed!

Together with five others, Lord Nithsdale had been found guilty of treason following his role in the Jacobite uprising of 1715, a failed attempt to reinstate the exiled House of Stuart to the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland.

On hearing that he had been sentenced, Winifred Nithsdale left the family home in Dumfries and rode on horseback to London with her maid Cecilia Evans, while hatching a plan to save her husband from death.

After recuperating from their long journey, Winifred, Cecilia and a third collaborator called Mrs. Mills visited Lord Nithsdale in his cell at the Tower. Mrs. Mills wore an extra riding cloak, which Winifred instructed her husband to put on, while she set about disguising him as a woman with white paint to cover his beard, rouge for his cheeks, and one of her petticoats to wear under the cloak.

She then led him out of his cell and straight past the guards, talking to him soothingly while he buried his face in a handkerchief and pretended to sob!

Once they were out in the courtyard Cecilia took over, and led Lord Nithsdale out of the Tower in his disguise. Winifred knew that she needed to buy him as much time as possible while he made his way to safety, so she went back to his empty cell and pretended to have a conversation with her condemned husband for the guards to overhear. On her way out, she asked the guards not to disturb him for a while, as he was praying.

Lord Nithsdale was moved to Drury Lane, then to the house of the Venetian Ambassador (without the Ambassador knowing!), and finally to Dover, where he made his escape to France.

Meanwhile, Lady Nithsdale and Cecilia rode back to Scotland, where she raised funds for their new life in Europe, before joining her husband in Rome, where they spent the rest of their lives together in exile



## Wordsearch

Here is a Wordsearch of makes of car. 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 them! Solution next week.

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

AUSTIN  
 ALVIS  
 BENTLEY  
 CITROEN  
 FORD  
 HYUNDAI  
 JAGUAR  
 KIA  
 MASERATI  
 MAZDA  
 MORRIS  
 MITSUBISHI  
 RENAULT  
 TOYOTA  
 VAUXHALL  
 VOLKSWAGEN

## Solution to last week's Wordsearch

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

## A Prayer

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

Isabelle, Jo, Rory, Lucy, Judy, Neil, Fiona, Pat, Bob and Ben.

RIP Dr John McGraph and for all those who have died from 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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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/>

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