



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

Dear Friends,

I am writing to say that we now have a full house for the State Carol Service on December 19th. I'm sorry if this is a disappointment, and you wanted to attend the service. There are still services on Christmas Eve (1600 Crib Service and 1800 The First Mass of Christmas) to which you are very welcome. There is also a service at 1000 on Christmas Day but no service on Sunday 26th (Boxing Day).

People are enjoying the Christmas installations in the Tower, many on the theme of animals associated with the Tower. Animals were often given as presents to monarchs by visiting dignitaries, and so we have an elephant, a zebra, monkeys, a polar bear and lions.

We are now well into our carol services and it's always good to see the chapel full of smiling faces, even if behind a mask. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all those who find Christmas a particularly difficult time; not everyone, for one reason or another, finds the season of Christmas joyful.

In line with recent government recommendations the advice of the Chapel Royal is for us to continue wearing masks in church and while singing.

With my best wishes to you all, Roger.

Sunday Service Details
The Third Sunday in Advent

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula (followed by mulled wine.)

Readings

Zephaniah 3: 14-end
Luke 3: 7-18 (John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ)

Collect for The Third Sunday in Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Thought for the Day

From Canon Roger Hall

<https://youtu.be/bioc7gt2dM>

Christmas Services

Sunday 19th December

0915 Holy Communion (Chapel of St John the Evangelist)

1100 Christmas State Carol Service

(Guest list is now full – please email Debbie to be on the reserve list)

Friday 24th December

1600 Carols around the Crib

1800 First Mass of Christmas

Saturday 25th December

1000 Choral Matins

Sunday 2nd January

No services

Poem

This poem is the work of Jay Hulme, a young poet who was brought up to be, in his own words, ‘so atheist’ that at the age of twenty-three, he had no idea what date in December Christmas Day was. After many years of denial, having been drawn to many churches and cathedrals, he finally admitted in November 2019 that God was real to him.

Soon afterwards, a global pandemic changed the world and all churches were shut. As a result, Jay learned to find God everywhere: not ‘trapped in church buildings’, but ‘in every inch of earth, in the ruined factories and polluted canals’ of his city of Leicester. The language of this poem reflects urban decay and deprivation, in repeated consonants, such as ‘freezing fear’ and ‘dust-dark doorways’.

The collection ‘The Backwater Sermons’ (2021), from which this poem comes, reflects the strange perspective of being what Jay calls a ‘Plague Christian’.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus

in the bleak earth, mould-dirt,
in the tent and the tenement
and the cold corner
we found for ourselves

Dwell amongst us in the ashes,
in the filth and the fright and
the freezing fear of eviction
that comes with each knock at the door.

Make your home in the
dust-dark doorways
of dilapidated factories
and dissipated department stores.
Our endless prayer: *Come, Lord.*

Jay Hulme b.1997

Our Congregation



On Thursday 2nd December HRH Princess Michael of Kent attended the CURE International carol service in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

And in the Friday 3rd the Worshipful Company of Security Professionals had their annual Carol service in the Chapel.

We are so pleased to be welcoming different charities and Livery Companies back into the Chapel for their carol services this year. Guests are asked to wear face masks while in the Chapel – however this doesn't seem to be dampening any Christmas spirit.

Jigsaw

Another view of the Tower of London's Christmas decorations. This week it's the Zebra brightening up the White Tower on a drizzly afternoon.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=26b0a511db4f>



A Prayer

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very poorly, amongst whom we name: Lucy, Judy, Heather, Pat, Lorraine, Sue, Mark, Madeleine, Vivienne, Derek, Maria, Ann, Gordon and Bridget.

RIP

Peter Bayley (Priest) and Tim Simmons

Our Coronavirus Prayer

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 on those who mourn.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With best wishes and prayers, Roger



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