



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

Dear friends,

This Newsletter goes out in the week of our General Election. When Parliament is in session, the first item on each day's agenda consists of a prayer said by the Speaker's Chaplain, the words of which are as follows:

"Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and his government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but, laying aside all private interests and prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen."

Whatever our personal political convictions, I hope that we can all subscribe to the sentiments in that prayer. It might even be a good idea for us to bear it in mind as we cast our votes.

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

Sunday Service Details 7th July 2024

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

0915 Said Holy Communion, Chapel of St John the Evangelist (White Tower)

1100 Choral Matins, Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Readings

2 Samuel 5: 1-5 & 9-10 and Mark 6: 1-13.

Collect for The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things
as pass man's understanding; Pour into our hearts such love toward thee,
that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Patronal Festival

6.30pm, Wednesday 17th July

Choral Evensong followed by a reception on Chapel Green

This is a major event in the life of the Chapels Royal. Do come and bring your friends.

Guest Preacher:

Professor The Reverend Robin Griffiths-Jones, Master of the Temple

If you would like to attend, please email TowerOfLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk in advance to facilitate entry to the Tower.

Poem of the week: Democracy by Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914).



Ambrose Gwinnett Bierce was an American short-story writer, journalist, poet, and American Civil War veteran. In 1864, while fighting for the Union, he was shot in the head with a musket ball, causing a traumatic brain injury that left him with episodes of fainting and irritability for the rest of his life.

Bierce focused on his writing career after leaving the military and became a prominent journalist and newspaper editor. His vinegary dismissal of those he regarded as hypocrites became his trademark style. Christians, for example, he wrote off as people who “follow the teachings of Christ in so far as they are not inconsistent with a life of sin”. Bierce has been described as a ‘nonbelieving puritan’ from a long line of churchgoing New Englanders, men whose fundamental values - honesty, hard

work, and personal rectitude - he consistently honoured through his actions, even as he frequently mocked them with his words.

His best-known book, *The Devil's Dictionary*, contains many memorably satirical definitions, such as these:

Acquaintance: A person whom we know well enough to borrow from, but not well enough to lend to.

Anoint: To grease a king or other great functionary already sufficiently slippery.

Bigot: One who is obstinately and zealously attached to an opinion that you do not entertain.

Bore: A person who talks when you wish him to listen.

Clairvoyant: A person, commonly a woman, who has the power of seeing that which is invisible to her patron – namely, that he is an idiot.

Consult: To seek approval for a course of action already decided upon.

Coward: One who, in a perilous emergency, thinks with his legs.

Egotist: A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me.

Love: A temporary insanity curable by marriage.

Positive: Mistaken at the top of one's voice.

Revolution: In politics, an abrupt change in the form of misgovernment.

These examples may make Bierce sound merely cynical and, indeed, the title of his newspaper column, in which many were first published, was *The Cynic's Dictionary*. He once defined democracy as ‘four wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch’ but he was in fact a consistently staunch upholder of democracy and the individual against all types of autocracy. In this short poem he pithily expresses the importance of individuals maintaining their autonomy and freedom.

Democracy

Let slaves and subjects with unvaried psalms
Before their sovereign execute salaams;
The freeman scorns one idol to adore:
Tom, Dick and Harry and himself are four.

Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)

Ecumenical Service and Pilgrimage

On Friday 28th June 2024, the Catholic and Anglican churches, led by His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and the Dean of St George's College, Windsor Castle, Bishop Christopher Cocksworth, came together for an Ecumenical Pilgrimage in memory of St Thomas More and St John Fisher, Archbishop Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer, who were all held at the Tower of London prior to their execution.



The guests were welcomed to the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula by Canon Roger Hall, and then visited the Crypt where St Thomas More is buried and which holds the memorial to St John Fisher, the Lower Bell Tower (Thomas More's cell) where he was held for over a year before his execution and the Bloody Tower where Archbishop Cranmer and Bishops Ridley and Latimer were held prior to their execution in Oxford. The guests then returned to the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula for Choral Evensong.



Pictured: His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham and the Dean of St George's College, Windsor Castle, Bishop Christopher Cocksworth; His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio, with Canon Roger Hall; The Constable, The General Sir Gordon Messenger

Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1bba649f14d4>

Two of the Tower of London's ravens.



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Stanley, Claire, John, Dom, Barbara, Ann, Ros, Toby, Mark, Dan, Ian, Florence and Kofi.

RIP

Toby Bevans, Claire Mellish and Trevor Sullivan

Please continue to pray for Ukraine, Israel and Palestine:

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

This we pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen.

With best wishes to all,

Cortland.



The Reverend Cortland Fransella
Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM The King
cortland.fransella@hrp.org.uk

Donations to the Chapel

We are always grateful for financial contributions to help us in our work. If you would like to support the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London by setting up a Standing Order, making a one-off donation to Chapel Funds or setting up a Direct Debit, this is how to do it.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

STANDING ORDER. This is our preferred method because it ensures that we get maximum benefit from your contributions in the timeliest manner. If you would like to set up a Standing Order, you should be able to do this online with your bank, using the following details:

Bank name: **CAF Bank plc**

Sort code: **40-52-40**

Account number: **00027597**

Account name: **The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation**

Reference: *[your initials and surname]*.

If you prefer to set up the Standing Order by hard copy, please complete the Standing Order form below and send it to your bank.

In either case, please be sure to complete the Gift Aid Form below if you are an eligible UK taxpayer, as this increases the amount of your donation by 25% at no additional cost to you. Please send the completed Gift Aid Form to the address on the form: *The Chapel Administrator, 1 Tower Green, Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB* or scan it and send it as an e-mail attachment to: TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk.

ONE-OFF DONATION. You can make a one-off donation online by clicking on [this link](#) or pointing the camera of your phone or tablet at this QR Code



and following the link which then pops up. If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please tick the relevant box and provide the required details on the CAF Bank online form. These two links are also available on our website [here](#).

DIRECT DEBIT. It is also possible to use the links above to set up a Direct Debit if that is what you prefer.

If you are an eligible UK taxpayer using the CAF Bank website via the links above to make either a one-off donation or to set up a Direct Debit, please remember to tick the Gift Aid box on the CAF site form. This method of Gift Aid payment does entail some delay in our receiving the benefit – hence our preference for Standing Orders. Gift Aid is available only to eligible UK taxpayers.

If you would also like to give to the Music Fund known as the Chapel Music Friends, please click [here](#).

Please note that Standing Orders and Direct Debits can be set up only from accounts with banks in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. One-off payments may be made from anywhere in the world, using the card or PayPal options on the CAF Bank website from the links above.

Please see below for the Standing Order and Gift Aid forms.

Thank you again for your generosity.

The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation



Standing Order

Standing Order

If you have an online banking facility, you should be able to use that to set up a Standing Order with the information in the box below. If not, please complete the form and send it to your bank.

To: The Manager, _____ *[Name of your bank]*

[Address of bank] _____

[Address of bank] _____

[Sort code] _____ - _____ - _____ *[Account No.]* _____

Please remit £ to the account detailed below commencing on

_____ *[date]* and monthly / annually *[delete one]* until further notice.

[Signature] _____

[Date of signing] _____

Use the information below to set up online, or return the completed form to your bank.

Please remit to: CAF Bank plc	Sort code	40-52-40
	Account number	00027597
	Account name	The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation
	Reference	<i>[your initials and surname]</i>

The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation



Gift Aid

Charity Gift Aid Declaration – Multiple donations

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is required to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... and any donation I make in the future or have made in the last four years to The HM Tower of London Chapels Royal Foundation.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. *If this does not apply, please strike through and continue with the rest of this form.*

My details: Title _____ First name or initials _____

Surname _____

Home Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Email _____

Phone No _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.
-

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment Tax Return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Please post, or return to:

The Chapel Administrator, 1 Tower Green, Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB.

or send as an e-mail attachment to: TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1160859

Registered Office: 1 Tower Green, The Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB.