



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

Dear friends,

And so, we come to the end of another liturgical year, as Advent Sunday (December 1st) will mark the start of a new year. In Advent, we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ at Christmas. Some of our preparation will be joyful but, as with any new birth, there will also be apprehension, particularly since this new birth, more than any other, is life-changing. John's Gospel speaks of Jesus' birth as the coming of the light (John 1: 2) without which nothing can live, but also in which nothing can hide. Light is symbolic of all that God is: it is life, it is truth, it is warmth; it is active and it pushes away the darkness. Advent is a time to let the light in, to allow it to challenge us and dispel the darkness.

### A prayer for Advent

Almighty God, creator of light, give us courage to turn to you with hope and trust. As we await the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, may the renewing Spirit teach us to trust your purposes of love, and to allow the new birth to set us free. Amen.

**Thank you** all for your continuing support for the **London Hygiene Bank**. Every item you donate makes a difference to someone. I have asked many of the groups coming to our carol services to support this charity. This notice has been added to their order of service: -

*This year here at St Peter's we are collecting in aid of the **London Hygiene Bank**. The Chapels Royal within the Tower of London and all central London Churches are supporting this very worthy charity. With 4.2 million people in the UK unable to afford hygiene basics, they are having to make difficult choices between buying food or hygiene basics like toothpaste or washing up liquid.*

*Your kindness can be life-changing – did you know that just £15 could provide a family of four with cleaning supplies and laundry detergent for a month? That family would then be able to give their children presents, as well as cooking the Christmas lunch!*



**Finally**, like last year (during December) I'm collecting winter coats for the charity **Calling London**. This year they are only collecting coats for men and teenage boys. Do have a look through your wardrobe and if you have a spare coat, **please** let me have it.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the **Advent Carol Service**.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers. Roger.

**Sunday Service Details for 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**  
**Advent Sunday**

**0915** Holy Communion (White Tower)

**1100** Advent Carol Service St Peter ad Vincula

**Collect for Advent Sunday**

**Almighty God**, give us grace that we may cast away  
the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son  
Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility: that in  
the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious  
Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may  
rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and  
reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. **Amen.**

**Poem of the week**

‘Infant Sorrow’, written by William Blake is part of his *Songs of Experience* collection, which forms a counterpart with the poems in *Songs of Innocence*. The two collections were originally published separately but in 1794, Blake combined both sets into a single illustrated volume entitled *Songs of Innocence and of Experience Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul*. ‘Infant Sorrow’, the poem I have chosen, contrasts with ‘Infant Joy’ in *Songs of Innocence*, which describes a child who is only two days old and perceived to be happy and joyful. In ‘Infant Sorrow’, however, the helpless naked child has a will of his own, is capable of defying both parents and is highly aware of the dangerous world he has entered. We could say he has entered the world of *experience*. Blake himself was something of a troublesome child, who hated discipline and, as a result, was sent off to boarding school. This little poem has often come to mind as I’ve held a child at baptism, or cradled my own children at the time of their birth, wondering what the future hold for them, and what God’s plan might be for them. Sometimes these things can turn out very differently from what we expect.

**Infant Sorrow**

My mother groan’d! my father wept.

Into the dangerous world I leapt:

Helpless, naked, piping loud;

Like a fiend hid in a cloud.

Struggling in my father’s hands:

Striving against my swaddling bands:

Bound and weary I thought best

To sulk upon my mother’s breast.

**William Blake 1757 -1827.**

## **Jigsaw**

The Tower of London Ravens had some inquisitive visitors.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1c9277909a67>



## **Prayers**

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Stanley, John, Barbara, Mark, Rob, and Kofi.

## **RIP**

Ann Kneely, Shirley Reece, former White Tower Senior Warden Celestino Tino Frobogo.

## **Please continue to pray for Ukraine and the countries of the Middle East:**

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East 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, Roger.



1 Tower Green  
HM Tower of London  
EC3N 4AB  
07908 413045  
[Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk)  
Twitter @RogerHall53

## **Safeguarding Officer**

Dan Hawkins, Tower of London Operations Manager

[Dan.Hawkins@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Dan.Hawkins@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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_ [*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	<b>40-52-40</b>
	Account number	<b>00027597</b>
	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](mailto:TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk)

Registered Charity Number 1160859