



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

Dear friends,

'Your word is a lamp to our feet' Psalm 119: v 105.

This Sunday, the second in Advent, is often referred to as Bible Sunday. The Collect for this day reminds us that all holy scripture is written that we might *'hear, learn and inwardly digest it'*. The Collect (which you can read below) was written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in 1549; for Cranmer, the important touchstone of every aspect of wisdom is *'all holy Scripture'*. Cranmer puts the Bible at the very heart of all Christian living, believing that not only will we hear scripture but *'inwardly digest it'*. In this Collect, Cranmer invites us to love the Bible and learn it, not for its own sake, but for the sake of the cause for which it was written: our wisdom and understanding. There was once a time when every household had a Bible (sometimes a family Bible). Bible Sunday is an occasion to get your Bible out again and discover a book full of wonderful stories which can excite and challenge the imagination, and lead us back to God.

The Bible Society Prayer

Almighty God, we pray for all involved in the translation, distribution and production of the Bible worldwide, and for all who help people understand and live by it.
Lord, so shape your people by your word that we will bring life and hope to all around us through Jesus, your living Word. Amen.

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers for you all, Roger.

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.



**Sunday Service Details for December 8th 2024
The Second Sunday in Advent**

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula


Psalm 80: 1-12

Readings

Philippians 1: 3-11
Luke 3: 1-6

Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



24th December - Christmas Eve

1600 Crib Service

1800 First Mass of Christmas

25th December - Christmas Day

1000 Morning Prayer with Carols
Followed by shortened Holy Communion

29th December

No services

Poem of the week

This short winter poem by Mary Elizabeth Coleridge (1861-1907) is a gem, showing a fleeting moment of connection and introspection against a natural backdrop of dramatic imagery. It says much in just a few words. Mary was the great-grand niece of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) and the fourth member of that family to be known for writing novels and poetry. Although never as famous as her forebears, Mary was popular in her time as an accomplished novelist and essayist.

Her poetry, however, was published anonymously or under the pseudonym *Anodos*, (meaning 'wanderer'), which meant that she was hardly recognised as a poet during her lifetime. Her poetry was only published under her own name posthumously, in 1908, and became very popular. Its simplicity and strong imagery also appealed to composers such as Hubert Parry, Charles Villiers Stanford and later Benjamin Britten, all of whom wrote musical arrangements for many of them. One of the best known of these songs is *The Blue Bird*, based on Mary's much-loved poem *L'Oiseau Bleu*, set to music by Stanford in 1910.

A Moment

The clouds had made a crimson crown
Above the mountains high.
The stormy sun was going down
In a stormy sky.

Why did you let your eyes so rest on me,
And hold your breath between?
In all the ages this can never be
As if it had not been.

Mary Elizabeth Coleridge 1861- 1907

Our Congregation

On Saturday 30th November, Jack and Jessica were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



The Chapel Christmas decorations

Thank you to our team of volunteers who spent the day on Sunday decorating the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. It looks beautiful, and is ready for all of our many Carol Services in December.



On Monday, the Chapel's Christmas tree went up. Thank you to the HRP team for the Christmas tree inside the Chapel and for those around the rest of the Tower of London.



Jigsaw

The 'Red' Tower. <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=32c5cf03648c>



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, Christopher Tomlinson, and 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.

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Safeguarding Officer

Dan Hawkins, Tower of London Operations Manager

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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 _____ [*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