



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

Dear friends,

There are several important notices to give out this week.

Firstly, an important message from the members of the Chapel Committee asking for your help with Chapel giving (details are below).

Secondly, to remind you that I'm collecting coats for adult males and teenage boys and jumpers for both women and men for The Passage. I need these (if possible) by the 19th December; many thanks to all those who have already dropped off a coat or jacket.



Thirdly, this Sunday there will be mulled wine and hot spiced apple juice after church, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

An Advent thought.

As we continue our Advent journey, the pressure is also building to get everything done in readiness for Christmas! Today, I was struck by a thought as I assembled the chapel crib, about how easy it is to become a grumbler at this time of year. I have moments when I feel I'm becoming rather like Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*! However, we all know that in the end Scrooge was transformed into a character who was far more friendly and likeable and a whole lot less miserly. I believe this transformation and indeed redemption is also there for us. After all, redemption is found in a tiny baby lying in a manger. The transforming love of the Christ Child can change even the most bad-tempered, impatient and frustrated among us all as we try to balance all that life throws at us at this busy time of the year.

With my prayers and best wishes for you all, and I hope to see you on Sunday, Roger.

Dear members of our congregation,

We, the Chapel Committee, are writing to you as you receive the weekly Chapel newsletter.

You will be aware that the Chapel will close after Christmas until after Easter, for the installation of wheelchair access, repairs and renovation to the east window and other necessary works. During this period, we are anticipating a meaningful reduction in the weekly congregations whilst we are worshipping in St John's Chapel in the White Tower.

This will inevitably mean that we will experience a significant reduction to our service collections and money left by visitors in the box by the door. You will appreciate that we rely heavily on these funds for the upkeep of the Chapel and payments to our exceptional choir, amongst other costs.

Therefore, we are writing to ask those of you who give regularly to the Chapel by standing order, to consider increasing your very generous donations and, to those of you who give regularly to the offertory collection, to consider giving by way of a standing order, details of which can be found at the end of the weekly newsletter.

With many thanks and best wishes,

Chapel Committee Members, Canon Roger, Mrs Gill Howard, Mr Chris Weston-Simons, Mr Colm Carey.

**Sunday Service Details for December 15th, 2024
The Third Sunday in Advent**

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula (followed by mulled wine and hot spiced apple juice)

Psalm 12

Readings Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18.

Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

O Lord Jesu 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.**

Poem of the week

Emily Dickinson (1830-96) was an American poet who was little known during her lifetime but has since become recognised as one of America's most significant female poets. Almost all of her work, including this week's poem, was published after her death. She never married and lived most of her life as a recluse, becoming known locally as something of an eccentric, with a penchant for wearing white and a reluctance to greet people. In later life, she rarely left her bedroom.



Her poems are often associated with nature, life and mortality, and have their own unconventional capitalisation and punctuation, with short lines. Opinions vary as to which is her most famous and meaningful poem. Her much-loved poem *Hope* certainly stands out as a mark of her greatness but I have chosen *This World is not Conclusion*, first published in 1896, as it is a suitable reflection for the season of Advent. The poem uses twin similes to evoke all that's beautiful and ungraspable about the afterlife. Whatever 'stands beyond' this world is invisible, as Music, but positive, as Sound. In other words, the afterlife can't be perceived with the eyes any more than can music. One commentator wrote about the poem: '*Emily Dickinson explores the tension between faith and doubt. The speaker intuits that this world isn't the only one and that people go on to another world after they die. But their belief stands on shaky ground. Though many have tried, no one can really prove the existence of an afterlife, so it's hard to get comfortable with the idea, and doubt gnaws at them.*'

This World is not Conclusion

This World is not Conclusion.
A Species stands beyond—
Invisible, as Music—
But positive, as Sound—
It beckons, and it baffles—
Philosophy, dont know—
And through a Riddle, at the last—
Sagacity, must go—
To guess it, puzzles scholars—
To gain it, Men have borne
Contempt of Generations
And Crucifixion, shown—
Faith slips—and laughs, and rallies—
Blushes, if any see—
Plucks at a twig of Evidence—
And asks a Vane, the way—
Much Gesture, from the Pulpit—
Strong Hallelujahs roll—
Narcotics cannot still the Tooth
That nibbles at the soul—

Emily Dickinson 1830-86

Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=24705e1dc203>

The Christmas decorations outside the Chapel of St Peter.



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

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

Christopher Tomlinson and Norma Rawsthorne.

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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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