



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

Dear friends,

Greetings to you all in this season of Epiphany, when we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Messiah and Saviour of all people.

For those of you attending our current single 9.30am service on Sundays in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower, you will now notice the entrance and part of the walls of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula boarded up. All the furniture has been removed from inside while the works proceed to make the Chapel accessible, sound and secure for the coming years. It is of course frustrating for all of us not to be able to worship in the Chapel for these three months or so, but the work had to be done at some point, so please bear with us. It will be especially welcome finally to have the Chapel made accessible to those with mobility issues.

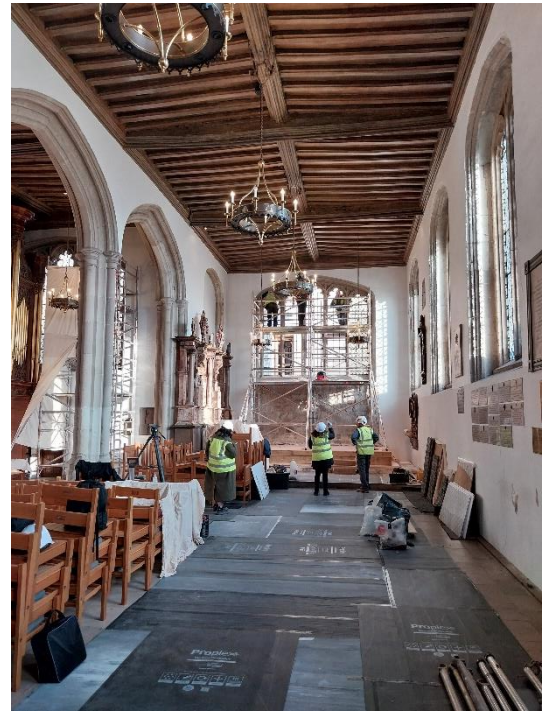
Please note that the East Gate to the Tower (nearest to St Katharine Dock) is out of action until the end of February for both vehicles and pedestrians. The only entry is by the West Gate next to the Tower Gift Shop. Those attending our 9.30am services will be admitted from 9.00 am and directed to the Middle Drawbridge entrance.

To repeat Roger's plea in last week's newsletter, those of you who are attending regularly are encouraged to get a **Chapel pass**. This facilitates your entry to services. All that is required is for you to let us have your name and address, accompanied by a passport photograph with your name clearly written on the back (and if possible, a stamped address envelope), and our Chapel Administrator Debbie will return your laminated pass to you as soon as possible. You can either drop off a passport photo at the service on Sunday or email it with the other details as an attachment to Debbie ([Deborah.Corbett@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Deborah.Corbett@hrp.org.uk)).

Again, as Roger mentioned last week, do consider increasing your donation to the Chapel, or start a regular donation by standing order or direct debit. It is also possible to make a one-off donation. During the closure period of the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, we expect a significant reduction in weekly congregations and, therefore, a considerable reduction in our service collections, as well as, of course, the money normally left by our many Tower visitors in the box by the Chapel 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. I hope you will be able to help. There is information at the end of this Newsletter to assist you in this.

With all good wishes and blessings,

Cortland.



## Prayer



In place of our weekly poem, we have decided to offer a weekly prayer. Our first is by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45), who was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident. He was a principal founding member of the Confessing Church, which refused to compromise with Nazi ideology and offered sustained resistance to the régime. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential; his 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic. Bonhoeffer's staunch resistance to the Nazi dictatorship included vocal opposition to Adolf Hitler's euthanasia programme and the genocidal persecution of Jews. He was arrested in April 1943 by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Tegel Prison for 1½ years. Later, he was transferred to Flossenbürg concentration camp. Bonhoeffer was accused of being associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1944 attempt to assassinate Hitler and was tried along with other accused plotters. He was hanged on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1945 during the collapse of the Nazi régime.

Bonhoeffer's poem is written from the depths of misery, perhaps calling to mind the first line of Psalm 130 "Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord : Lord, hear my voice." It also echoes Psalm 70, which reads as follows in the King James (Authorised) Version:

1. Haste thee, O God, to deliver me : make haste to help me, O Lord.
2. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul : let them be turned backward and put to confusion that wish me evil.
3. Let them for their reward be soon brought to shame : that cry over me, There, there.
4. But let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in thee : and let all such as delight in thy salvation say alway, The Lord be praised.
5. As for me, I am poor and in misery : haste thee unto me, O God.
6. Thou art my helper and my redeemer : O Lord, make no long tarrying.

It is interesting to note that, although Bonhoeffer had every reason to invoke God's wrath on those who had grievously wronged him, and who would shortly take his life, he does not express the thoughts of the writer of verses 2-3 of Psalm 70 in calling for them to be punished. Instead, he focuses on inviting God's consolation and strength in his own troubles and asking that his loved ones be kept safe, as well as seeking forgiveness for any wrongs that he has done to others. This selfless approach to prayer is typical of Bonhoeffer. Rather than seeking vengeance, he simply places his fate in God's hands.

### **Bonhoeffer's poem:**

O Lord God,  
Great is the misery that has come upon me;  
My cares would overwhelm me,  
I know not what to do.  
O God, be gracious unto me and help me.  
Grant me strength to bear what you send  
and let not fear rule over me.  
As a loving Father, take care of my loved ones . . . .

O merciful God, forgive me all  
the sins I have committed against you,  
and against my fellows.  
I trust in your grace and commit  
my life wholly into your hands.  
So, do with me as seems best to you and as is best for me.  
Whether I live or die, I am with you,  
and you are with me, my God.  
Lord, I wait for your salvation.

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-45).**

## Music

One of the things that we necessarily miss in our current Sunday services in the White Tower is the pleasure of hearing our wonderful choir under the direction of the Master of Music Colm Carey. They have, however, been busy on our behalf, recording pieces for us which they would otherwise have sung in our usual 11 o'clock services. This week they have provided two pieces, one by Benjamin Britten and one by Jacob Handl, on which Colm has provided the following background:

### **A New Year Carol (from Friday Afternoons) - Benjamin Britten (1913-76)**

This miniature, written for children in 1936, comes from a collection of twelve songs titled *Friday Afternoons*. It is unclear what the chorus of the text (which is anonymous) symbolises. Some think it refers to the Welsh custom of bringing fresh water with evergreen sprigs as a New Year gift. Levy Dew may be a bastardisation of the French 'Levez Dieu', alluding to the raising of the host during the Eucharistic. The 'seven bright gold wires' and 'bugles' may be drawn from images in the Book of Revelation, referring to candles and trumpets of the apocalypse. Whatever the meaning, the simplicity of Britten's unison melody is very moving as it ushers a New Year in.

Here we bring new water from the well so clear,  
For to worship God with, this happy New Year.  
Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine;  
The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe,  
Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go.  
*Sing levy dew...*

Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin,  
Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in.  
*Sing levy dew...*

### **Omnes de Saba Venient - Jacob Handl (1550-91)**

Jacob Handl was a Slovenian composer who sang in the Imperial Chapel of Maximilian II before becoming Kantor of Saint Jan na Brezhu in Prague. His compositions are always very characterful, and he was criticised in his own lifetime for writing music that was too difficult to sing!! It is true that the contrapuntal complexity of his music is very advanced for its time, and people never like change...! Handl was manifesting the evolution of composition towards the Baroque era of music which began around 1600, and I suspect the sophistication of his writing befuddled those who were happy with the serenely beautiful works of the high renaissance.

This short piece sets text from Isaiah Ch. 60 v.6 - 'And they from Saba will come, bringing gold and frankincense, and announcing the praise of the Lord. Alleluia.' It is very typical of Handl. After a declamatory opening it bursts into vibrant polyphony where five different voice parts throw Handl's musical motifs around before coming to a strong homophonic close with the final iteration of 'Alleluia'.

*Omnes de Saba venient  
aurum et thus deferentes  
et laudem Domino annuntiantes.  
Alleluja.*

All they from Saba will come,  
bringing gold and frankincense,  
and announcing the praise of the Lord.  
Alleluia.

**The two music files (mp3) are being sent out with the email attaching this Newsletter: just click on the file names in the email attachments and they should play on your computer or tablet.**

**Sunday Service Details for 19th January 2025  
The Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**0930** Holy Communion  
*Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower*

**Readings:**

Romans 12: 6-16a, John 2: 1-11

**Collect for The Second Sunday after Epiphany**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth;  
Mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Our Choir**



Hello everyone, Ailsa here – one of the Chapel Royal Sopranos!

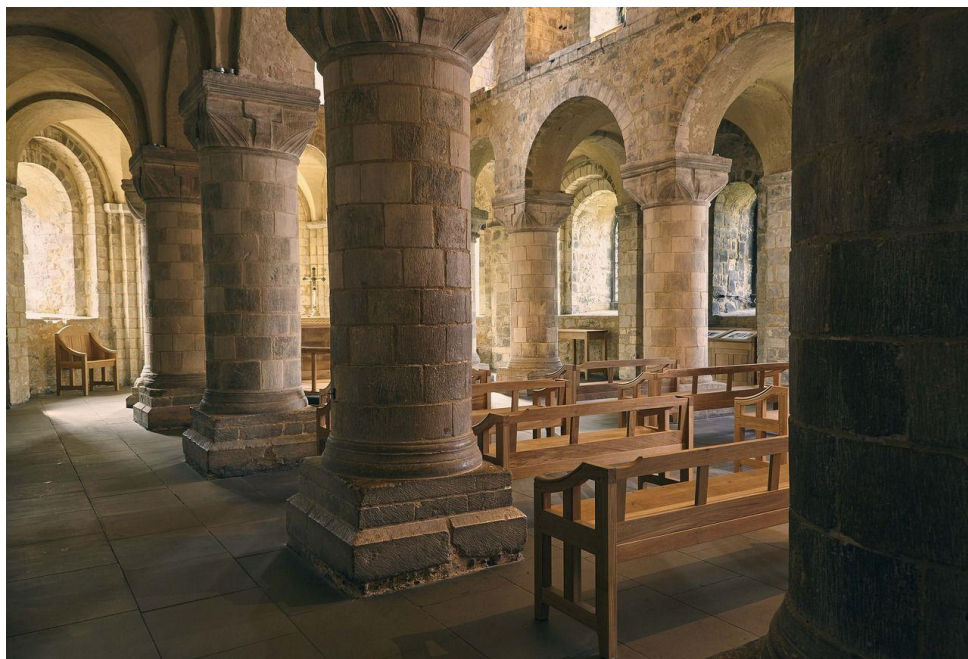
While we're not in the Chapel regularly this month, I'm keeping busy with something quite exciting (and a little terrifying) – I'm training for my climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, which I'll be tackling on February 1st!

With a summit of 5,895m, I am raising 20p for each metre climbed in aid of Muscular Dystrophy UK, a charity close to my heart. If you'd like to contribute, no donation is too small, and I'd be incredibly grateful for your support! You'll also be able to track my progress along the way. [Ailsa Campbell is fundraising for Muscular Dystrophy UK](#)

Thanks so much, and I hope to see you all before too long!

**Jigsaw**

This week's jigsaw offers a diagonal view of the interior of the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower, looking south-east. You'll find the puzzle by clicking here: [My Puzzles | Untitled | SJE Diagonal view](#) . Don't forget that the pieces really are all there, even if some are initially hidden under others.



## **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, Phil and Kofi.

## **RIP**

Paul Shand.

## **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, Cortland.



Assistant Priest, Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM King

[Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk)

## **Safeguarding Officer**

Our safeguarding Officer is 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)

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