



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

Dear friends,

Thank you to everyone who responded to my email asking for financial support whilst the chapel is closed and undergoing extensive building works. I'm pleased to report that to date, all the works are on schedule. Attached are two pictures of the archaeologists at work outside the front of our house, preparing the ground for the new Mobility Access.



Our worship has been transferred to the White Tower (services are at 0930 – details in the box) and we follow this by going over to the Armouries for coffee and a catchup. Do come and join us.

Thought for the Day

As the second Trump era begins, I have been listening to what is being said about it. One thing that has already struck me is that there isn't a great deal of listening going on. There are those who always want to win the argument, especially when they utterly believe they are in the right. Details appear to matter little; the only concern is the outcome – to win!

When we reflect upon the life of Christ, we see something quite different. When we become haughty, self-righteous and self-assured, never listening to what others have to say, we do not reflect the image of Christ or his teaching.

In my opinion it takes courage, real courage, to listen patiently, even when we feel like interrupting, correcting or simply wanting to get our point across. I believe God will reveal what needs to be uncovered if we listen attentively to each other. Maybe we will even learn something about ourselves.

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

Sunday Service Details for 26th January 2025
The Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

Readings: Romans 12: 16b- end
Matthew 8: 1-13.

Collect for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully
look upon our infirmities, and in all our
dangers and necessities stretch forth
thy right hand to help and defend us; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the week



As you will know, I've decided to produce a prayer each week, along with a short commentary. The prayer I have chosen this week is **Coming to God: First Days** by **Mary Oliver**, which is sometimes thought of as a poem, as well as a prayer, so you get both for the price of one. This prayer is the last nine lines of a longer poem which you might like to look up. Mary Oliver writes beautifully about nature, quietness and our surroundings.

I have kept this prayer by my side since I came across it, particularly in dark moments of emptiness, and when I have needed to be reminded that sitting alongside God is like sitting beside someone you know well, perhaps your wife, husband, or friend, and not needing to say anything but simply just being with them. No words are necessary.

Coming to God: First Days

Lord, I will also learn also to kneel down
into the world of the invisible,
the inscrutable and the everlasting.
Then I will move no more than the leaves of a tree
on a day of no wind,
bathed in light,
like the wanderer who has come home at last,
and kneels in peace, done with all unnecessary things:
every motion; even words. Amen.

Mary Oliver (1935-2019)

Tower of London

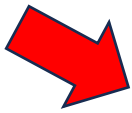
Relaxed Hour at the Tower – Sunday 26th January

To support HRP's strategy to become a Charity for Everyone, the Tower is hosting a relaxed morning event at the Tower of London for Neurodivergent, Learning-Disabled children and their families. Visitors can enjoy two hours at the Tower of London, where crowd levels are limited and access considerations have been made to ensure families can enjoy their experience, free from loud sound effects and harsh lighting.

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/whats-on/relaxed-hour-at-the-tower/#gs.jvijvj>

This Sunday 26th January will be the first Relaxed Hour at the Tower event, from 0900am – 11am.

The Chapel service will be taking place as usual at 0930am in the Chapel of St John in the White Tower. However, please be aware of those attending the event and be mindful that they are visiting the Tower at a special time to ensure they have a quieter and more relaxed visit.



Entry for Chapel Services

For this Sunday 26th January, please arrive at the West Gate entrance, and then walk down to the Middle Drawbridge to enter the Tower. This will separate our congregation entry from those children and families arriving for the Relaxed Hour.

From next Sunday 2nd February onwards, entry will be through the West Gate and main entrance of the Tower.

Music

The Angel's Carol - Colin Matthews (b.1946)

The Angel's Carol sets the text of Sarah Teasdale's *Christmas Carol*. The music reflects the simplicity and directness of Teasdale's poetry. A quiet drone - very typical of Christmas Epiphany music - sets the landscape for this little pastoral carol, above which a gentle rocking melody appears which alternates between the upper and lower voices.

The kings they came from out the south,
All dressed in ermine fine;
They bore Him gold and chrysoprase,
And gifts of precious wine.

The shepherds came from out the north,
Their coats were brown and old;
They brought Him little new-born lambs—
They had not any gold.

The wise men came from out the east,
And they were wrapped in white;
The star that led them all the way
Did glorify the night.

The angels came from heaven high,
And they were clad with wings;
And lo, they brought a joyful song
The host of heaven sings.

The kings they knocked upon the door,
The wise men entered in,
The shepherds followed after them
To hear the song begin.

The angels sang through all the night
Until the rising sun,
But little Jesus fell asleep
Before the song was done.

The Hygiene Bank

The Hygiene Bank collects new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials.

While we are holding services in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower it may be more difficult for you to bring physical donations to the Hygiene Bank with you. I know that many of you have been regular contributors and might still like to help out.

You can donate online at - <https://thehygienebank.com/give-products/>

Hygiene poverty affects 4.2 million adults in the UK. Since 2022, the cost of living and inflation crises have pushed an additional 1.1m people into hygiene poverty - the equivalent of the population of Birmingham. Hygiene poverty is undermining the nation's mental and physical health and limiting people's social interactions, forcing parents to make the difficult decision between paying for essential needs like food and bills or purchasing basic toiletries.

Jigsaw

A beautiful picture of the sun beginning to rise behind Tower Bridge, taken by Tower Security team leader Brian. <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=212eccc4886f>



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, Kofi and David.

RIP

Michael Bass (Priest)

Eva Greenspan

Francis Wilkin

Phil Kent

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
Twitter @RogerHall53

Safeguarding Officer

Dan Hawkins, Tower of London Operations Manager

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.

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