



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

Dear friends,

It is with great sadness that I'm writing to tell you that my wife Barbara died on Saturday. As many of you will know, she was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer last April. Throughout the last year I never once heard her complain or show any sign of bitterness, and she dealt with the cancer in her own courageous way. Since Christmas she had been very poorly, and spent the last few days in St Thomas' Hospital before finally dying in St Joseph's Hospice, where she wanted to end her days. I have been so lucky to have our three children, Beth, Harriet and Richard here, who, along with me, have been at her side throughout this last part of her life. Barbara had no fear of dying; she just wanted to die pain-free and comfortably, surrounded by the people who loved her.

I am very grateful to everyone who has supported us, enabled me to be with Barbara, and given me the space to do so.

There will a family service at the crematorium later this month, and then, in the summer, a service of thanksgiving with beautiful music, readings and reflections on Barbara's life.

'May Flights of Angels Sing Thee to Thy Rest'

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



Roger's Barbara



Easter 2018 proud granny enjoying the grandchildren's Easter bonnets.



Roger becomes a Canon, but Barbara reminded him she fires all the shots.

Barbara looking elegant, dignified and happy

Prayer of the week

I was the last remaining army chaplain to have served in the Outer Hebrides. As a family, and for me professionally, this was one of the happiest postings I ever undertook. It was a unique and special place, with a military community firmly integrated into the civilian community, surrounded by a landscape and seas like no other. It was whilst I was there that I really came to appreciate the Celtic prayers of the region. This prayer, sometimes used as a blessing, brings me comfort at this sad time, knowing that Barbara is safe in the hands of God.

A Celtic Prayer

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face,
and the rain fall soft upon your field.

And until we meet again,
may God hold you, Barbara,
in the palm of his hand.

Sunday Service Details for 16th February 2025
Septuagesima Sunday

0930 Holy Communion

Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower

Readings 1 Corinthians 9: 24-end, Matthew 20: 1-16.

Collect for Septuagesima

O Lord, we beseech thee favourably to hear
the prayers of thy people; that we,
who are justly punished for our offences,
may be mercifully delivered by thy goodness,
for the glory of thy Name; through Jesus
Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with
with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God,
world without end. **Amen.**

Music

Ego flos campi - Clemens non Papa (c.1510-1555)

This motet is one of the most ravishing of the entire Renaissance. It is thought to have been written for the Illustrious Brotherhood of Our Blessed Lady in 's-Hertogenbosch while Clemens was working for them for a 3-month period in 1550. The motto of the Brotherhood was 'Sicut lillium inter spinas' (As a lily among thorns), a reference to the purity of the Virgin Mary amidst a world of sinners. This text, and the additional words of Clemens' motet, is taken from the *Song of Songs*. The music is in seven parts, another nod to Mary as seven is a Marian number. The florid contrapuntal writing is beautifully expressive and second to none in the Renaissance. In the middle of the motet the music breaks into homophony (where all the singers are singing the same text at the same time) at the text 'Sicut lillium inter spinas': Clemens uses the Brotherhood's motto as the central point of the piece, first in the high voices, then the low voices and finally the whole choir.

Ego flos campi et lilium convallium.
Sicut lilium inter spinas sic amica mea inter filias.
Fons hortorum et puteus aquarum viventium
quae fluunt impetu de Libano.

*I am the flower of the field and the lily of the valleys.
As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.
The fountain of gardens: a well of living waters,
Which run with a strong stream from Lebanon.*

'**Ave Regina caelorum**' sung by Joe Deery from the choir.

Prayers

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

RIP

Barbara Hall

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.

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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



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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

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