



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

Dear friends,

As we continue to worship in the chapel of St John the Evangelist within the White Tower, I have been encouraged by the number of people continuing to join us, as well as by those who have said how much they have enjoyed meeting for coffee after the service in the Armouries. Breaking bread together around the altar and afterwards drinking coffee together strengthens our fellowship one with another.

Over many years we have supported various charities, for example, The Tower Hamlets Food Bank and more recently, the London Hygiene Bank. I'm very grateful for all your support. We will continue to support both these charities by means of a donation, but I have decided that we will stop collecting for the London Hygiene Bank and, when St Peter's reopens, we will support another charity. As part of our stewardship, we also give away £3,000 each year to various other charities, in line with all the chapels within the Chapels Royal. In addition, we respond to national disaster appeals and to the Bishop's Lent appeal.

All this is possible through your generous support of the chapel, for which I thank you.

News on the Chapel refurbishment

I'm pleased to report that, to date, everything continues to be on time. Work on the mobility entrance outside the west door has now reached an important moment. You may recall that several years ago, exploratory excavations outside the west door revealed two skeletal remains. The digging has now reached that same level, and everybody is hoping that nothing similar is found. We shall see!



Inside the chapel the damp, especially along the south wall, is being dealt with, and work in the crypt is under way.



The Bishop of London (as Dean of the Chapels Royal) was here this week, and I was able to give her an update on the progress.



With my thanks for your continued support and my best wishes and prayers for you all, Roger.

Sunday Service Details 23rd February 2025
The Sunday called Sexagesima

0930 Holy Communion, The White Tower
Readings 2 Corinthians 11: 19-31 and Luke 8: 4-15.

Collect for Sexagesima Sunday

O Lord God, who seest that we put not
our trust in any thing that we do:
Mercifully grant that by thy power we may be
defended against all adversity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the week

The Jesus Prayer 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me'

The Jesus Prayer is sometimes referred to as an 'Arrow Prayer' just like the prayer '*Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus.*' Its origins probably lie with the Desert Fathers (monks in the Egyptian desert in the 5th century), although the two sinners in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 20, cry out in a similar way. Ten words in English and seven in Greek, this short sentence is remarkably complete: there is the cry for mercy, the discipline of repetition, a quest for silence and veneration of the name of Jesus.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Christ gave them the Lord's Prayer, beloved by Christians for centuries and used daily in church and when Christians are alone or meet together. The Jesus Prayer has been a source of great help in difficult times; the tradition of slow invocation or repetition, when all else seems to fail, has been a gift to the church.

Try sitting in a quiet spot - this can be anywhere - and then slowly repeat the Jesus Prayer, perhaps five times, building up to ten times. This might well be something you could try each day throughout Lent, which begins in a few weeks' time.

The Jesus Prayer 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me'

Music

Kyrie (from Missa Tu es Petrus) - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-1594)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina is regarded as one of the greatest composers of the Renaissance. This year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of his birth and you can expect to hear lots of his music when we are back in Chapel. Palestrina's style is known for its purity, beauty of melodic shape and graceful treatment of dissonance. This Kyrie (from his Missa Tu es Petrus) is a vigorous work based on his motet of the same name (Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church). The blocks of sound one experiences are perhaps depicting the strength of the early church, both the body of people as well the bricks and mortar. In this Kyrie Palestrina pits the upper voices against the lower voices throughout, but this tension does not deflect from the overall joyousness and optimism of this glorious music.

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

Benjamin Britten - O might those sighes and teares (From Holy Sonnets of John Donne, op. 35)
Charlie Baigent and Hugh Rowlands

Listen by following the link below -

[Britten – O might those sighes and teares – Holy Sonnets of John Donne, op. 35](#)

*O might those sighes and teares returne againe
Into my breast and eyes, which I have spent,
That I might in this holy discontent
Mourne with some fruit, as I have mourn'd in vaine;
In mine Idolatry what showres of raine
Mine eyes did waste? what griefs my heart did rent?
That sufferance was my sinne; now I repent;
'Cause I did suffer I must suffer paine.
Th'hydroptique drunkard, and night-scouting thiefe,
The itchy Lecher, and selfe tickling proud
Have the remembrance of past joyes, for reliefe
Of comming ills. To poore me is allow'd
No ease; for, long, yet vehement grieve hath beene
Th'effect and cause, the punishment and sinne.*

Jigsaw

Poppy, one of the Tower's Ravens, acting as an extra security guard at the Middle Drawbridge.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2b160fe55632>



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, Ron Owen (Priest), Michael Crosby.

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