



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

Dear friends,

This week's Newsletter is given over to the VE Day celebrations. Here at The Tower, 30,000 poppies have been loaned from the Imperial War Museum, and a small army of volunteers from different walks of life have worked day and night for two weeks to assemble them. The pictures below give you some idea of the work involved. Many of you may recall the poppies at the Tower in 2014.





Victory in Europe Day celebrates the formal acceptance by the World War II Allies of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. The war would continue in Japan; it was Winston Churchill who said, '*We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing as Japan remains unsubdued*'.

Four days of remembrance have taken place, and we were delighted when HM The Queen came on Tuesday to plant the final poppy. The poppies will be here until Remembrance Sunday.



*HM The Queen and Harrison (son of YW Tracy Machin) plant the final poppies.*



*The poppies were presented to HM the Queen and Harrison by WWII Veterans Henry Rice (99) and Richard Aldred (100).*



The chapel is very busy this month with weddings, baptisms and other events. We will continue our routine of 0930 services in the White Tower until **29<sup>th</sup> June** (please note the date) when the first service will take place back in St Peter ad Vincula. There will then follow two more Sundays in St Peter ad Vincula (6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July) before the chapel closes for the summer.

Work on the new mobility access by the west door will not be complete by 29<sup>th</sup> June but we are assured that access into the chapel will be possible.

Two weddings and the baptism of Pippa and Will's son Theo have also taken place this week. Theo has been a very poorly child and I was delighted that he was well enough to be baptised. Many of you may recognise Will as a member of the choir. He will be back when St Peter ad Vincula reopens on 29<sup>th</sup> June



Thank you to everyone who has made a gallant effort to join us each Sunday morning - and not been defeated by the stairs!

We continue to pray for the outcome of the Papal Conclave and for the appointment of the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

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

**Sunday Service Details for 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025**  
**The Third Sunday after Easter**

**0930** Holy Communion (White Tower)  
**Readings** 1 Peter 2: 11-17 and John 16: 16-22.

**Collect for the Third Sunday after Easter**

**Almighty God**, who shewest to them that be in error  
the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may  
return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto  
all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's  
Religion, that they may eschew those things that are  
contrary to their profession, and follow all such things  
as are agreeable to the same; through our Jesus Christ  
**Amen.**

## Poem of the week

The poem ***In Retrospect*** was written especially for the VE Day celebrations by the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage. He read it to The Queen before she planted the last poppy here at The Tower, on Tuesday. Simon read it again at the Tuesday evening event in the Tower, to which 300 VIPs were invited, including nine veterans.



I had a long chat with Simon and a more pleasant man you couldn't wish to meet; he was charming to everyone. Simon was appointed Poet Laureate in May 2019. He is Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds and lives in Holme Valley, West Yorkshire.

### ***In Retrospect***

The world asks a great deal of the poppies,  
insists they carry the wounds of war  
and shoulder the weight of remembrance.  
Such flimsy, wavering plants;  
we painted their flowers the colour of blood  
and punched dark holes in their heads  
as if bullets had passed through,  
then trimmed them with green sprigs of hope.  
And from deep in the seeds we concocted  
the essence of sleep and dreams and resting-in-peace.  
Almost weightless even in full bloom  
we made them souls, the poppies, souls  
of those who we lost, and - let it be said -  
those who we killed.

Poppies - nursed in darkness, nourished by dirt.  
But for all their spindly roots, frail stalks  
and papery petals - as easily smudged  
as a butterfly wing –  
they joggle into existence  
again and again, unearthing themselves  
in fallow fields and railway sidings,  
on roundabouts, verges and no man's land,  
from the brickwork of old chimneys and bridges  
and cracks in the pavement.  
They nod and they nag,  
reminding us not to forget, flagging a red alert  
as their crumpled petals unfold.  
So, rightly, the poppies ask a great deal of the world.

**Simon Armitage b. 1963**



*WWII Veterans (left to right)*

*Henry Rice, Christian Lamb, Frederick Aldred, Richard Aldred, Pat Owtram, Olga Henderson, Barbara Bunce, Joe Mines and Ruth Bourne.*



*The Poppies on the South Lawn and White Tower illuminated to celebrate VE Day.*



## Music

### **For Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May - Lassus**

Surrexit pastor Bonus - Orlande de Lassus, 1532-94

Orlande de Lassus was the most prolific composer of the Renaissance. He produced some 60 Masses, 100 Magnificats, an astonishing 500 motets as well as 100s of secular works. He was the most famous composer of his day, even surpassing the reputation of Palestrina. However, for some reason (perhaps because his output was so vast that nobody has had time to explore his complete oeuvre!) his legacy in modern times is fainter than it might be. In any case, he is a wonderful composer, as this little motet demonstrates.

The rising figure at the outset announces the Resurrection of the Good Shepherd while the subsequent descending motif depicts Jesus laying down his life for his sheep. Almost half of the motet is taken up by iterations of 'Alleluia' - the first time the word would have been heard liturgically since the last Sunday of Epiphany. The effect of 5 different voice parts singing it polyphonically is like a peal of bells, bringing the motet to a triumphant conclusion.

Surrexit pastor bonus,  
qui animam suam posuit pro ovibus suis,  
et pro grege suo mori dignatus est, alleluia.

The Good Shepherd has arisen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep,  
and deigned to die for his flock, alleluia.

(Matins Responsory, Easter Monday; cf. John 10:11)

### **From Susie Hill (Soprano in the Choir)**

My contribution to the newsletter is perhaps slightly unusual, but I hope it offers you a glimpse of my life outside singing at the Tower! I enjoy leading various music education projects in London and the Midlands, and every Monday I work in Tower Hamlets with the 25 choristers of St Peter's, London Docks. The chorister programme is unauditioned and open to all singers aged 7-11; we are particularly fortunate that St Peter's London Docks Primary School, where the majority of our singers are educated, greatly values music and the arts, contributing significantly to the choristers' enthusiasm and dedication. Whilst it is a small programme at the moment, we are working hard to build up a Parish Choir 'back row' and to restore the original 2-manual Walker organ. The church has lots of interesting history, including being the first Anglican mission to the poor of London. Whilst the Tower is closed, I'd highly recommend a visit if you are passing through Wapping! This recording of Copland's 'At the River' is a snippet from one of our recent Monday rehearsals, sung by the choristers and accompanied by the organ scholar, Louis.



## **Jigsaw**

YW Ajay Clarke and Chapel Clerk YW Terry Briggs with the Poppies.

*(c) Historic Royal Palaces/Imperial War Museums*

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3403bf95b429>



## **Canon Roger Hall planting his poppy**



### **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, David and Val.

### **RIP**

Roxanne Stevens and Mark Falkner

### **Please continue to pray for peace in 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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### **Our Safeguarding Officer**

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.**

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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]*.

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**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



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If you would also like to give to the Music Fund known as the Chapel Music Friends, please click [here](#).

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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 bank]* *[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



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☐

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