



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

Dear friends,

After the named events of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week and Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, 25 weeks follow in which each Sunday in the Book of Common Prayer is just the 'nth after Trinity', before we once more embark on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Calling this 'Ordinary Time', may make it sound even more of an anti-climax. In fact, 'ordinary' here does not mean 'plain', 'regular' or 'unexceptional' but appears rather to relate to 'ordinal' in the sense of succeeding numbers. Unlike the Ordinary Time between Epiphany and Lent, when we count down towards Lent (the Fourth Sunday before Lent, the Third Sunday, etc), after Trinity we count up. So, a simpler way to understand the idea of Sundays in Ordinary Time is that they are known by [ordinal] numbers. In Ordinary Time, vestments and altar cloths are green.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June, Trinity Sunday, will mark our last 0930 Sunday service in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower. On Sunday 22 June there will be no services at the Tower of London; instead, we shall be guests of the Master of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, the Venerable Roger Preece, for a service of sung Holy Communion with our own Chapel choir at 1100. If you wish to attend, please notify our Chapel Administrator Debbie Corbett [here](#). On 29 June, 06 July and 13 July we shall revert to an 0915 said Holy Communion service, followed by an 1100 service with our choir. (See the summary below.) The two services on 13 July will be our last until 14 September, when we will revert permanently to our previous pattern of 0915 and 1100 services. In June and July, while the west entrance remains closed, entry to the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula will be via the clergy vestry down the outside steps near the east window. The Chapel Stewards will guide you.

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

**22nd June 2025:** The First Sunday after Trinity

**No service at the Tower.**

**1100 sung Holy Communion Service at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, with our choir.**

Optional lunch afterwards (£28 per head).

**29<sup>th</sup> June 2025:** The Second Sunday after Trinity

0915 said Holy Communion in the White Tower.

We will celebrate our Patronal Festival in St Peter ad Vincula at 1100 with sung Holy Communion.

Drinks and light refreshments will be served after the service.

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2025:** The Third Sunday after Trinity

0915 said Holy Communion in the White Tower.

Choral Matins at 1100 in St Peter ad Vincula, with coffee after church.

**13<sup>th</sup> July 2025:** The Fourth Sunday after Trinity.

0915 said Holy Communion in St Peter ad Vincula.

1100 Sung Holy Communion in St Peter ad Vincula - the last service before the summer break.

This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch which (weather permitting) will take place on long benches outside 1 Tower Green. (Should it be wet, lunch will take place indoors.) Wine and soft drinks will be provided by the chapel. Do come along and bring something to share!

## Sunday Service 15<sup>th</sup> June 2025

### Trinity Sunday

0930 Said Holy Communion in The Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower

### Readings

Revelation 4:1-end and John 3:1-15

### Collect for Trinity Sunday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast given unto us thy servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,  
and in the power of thy Divine Majesty to worship the Unity;  
We beseech thee, that thou wouldst keep us steadfast in this faith,  
and evermore defend us from all adversities,  
who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

### Poem of the week

The English poet Ursula Askham Fanthorpe CBE FRSL (1929–2009) published as U A Fanthorpe. She taught English at Cheltenham Ladies' College for 16 years, but then left teaching to work as a secretary, receptionist and hospital clerk in Bristol. She later wrote touchingly in her poems about some of the patients for whose records she had been responsible.

In 1987, at the age of 58, Fanthorpe went freelance, giving readings around the country and occasionally abroad. In 1994 she was nominated for the post of Oxford Professor of Poetry. Her nine collections of poems were published by Peterloo Poets. Her own selection of *Collected Poems* was published in 2005. Many of Fanthorpe's poems, when read in public, brought in two voices. The other was that of the Bristol academic and teacher R V 'Rosie' Bailey, Fanthorpe's life partner of 44 years. Both were committed Christians and joined the Society of Friends (Quakers) in the 1980s.



A number of U A Fanthorpe's poems throw a wryly original light on episodes from the life of Christ. I have, however, chosen her poem, *Portraits of Tudor Statesmen*, for its relevance to the Tower of London, with its resonances of court intrigue under Henry VIII, Mary, Elizabeth I and beyond. The fact that there are three Queens of England buried under the Royal Pavement in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula and the bodies of others executed lie elsewhere in the Chapel is eloquent testimony to the precariousness of life at the Tudor court. In this short poem Fanthorpe observes contemporary paintings of Tudor statesmen and

focuses in her final line on their necks, leaving powerfully unsaid the fact that the headsman's axe was to fall on so many of them. I particularly admire the phrase, 'violently vulnerable neck'. This is a good case of poetry being able to convey a meaning where prose would stumble. A neck cannot be violent, but it can be and is vulnerable. Here she is transferring the violence of these men (yes, they were all men) to their necks in a way which, whilst literally irrational, is shockingly convincing. It is a nice example of the rhetorical device of synecdoche, in which the part stands for the whole – or, perversely, the whole stands for the part. In the report, "England won by an innings and six wickets" (sadly, not a phrase we hear often), 'England' stands for 'the England cricket team' (the whole for the part). In 'the violently vulnerable neck' the part stands for the whole person and even for the whole court, where stakes are high in the constant jostle for power and those on the losing side may well forfeit their lives. The raptors become prey. I shall remember this poem when looking at the names on the memorials after we are back in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula later this month.

## ***Portraits of Tudor Statesmen***

Surviving is keeping your eyes open,  
Controlling the twitchy apparatus  
Of iris, white, cornea, lash and lid.

So the literal painter set it down –  
The sharp raptorial look; strained eyeball;  
And mail, ruff, bands, beard, anything, to hide  
The violently vulnerable neck.

**U A Fanthorpe (1929-2009)**

### **Music:**

**Pierre Passereau (c.1509-47) - Il est bel et bon** (sent out with this Newsletter)

Little is known about Pierre Passereau. He is believed to have been (at different times) a priest in Paris as well as a singer in a French ducal court and at Cambrai Cathedral. As a composer he focused on secular *chansons* and is today best known for this cheeky little song. It tells of two housewives gossiping about their husbands, while their men tend to the clucking hens. It is full of energy and wit, with clever word painting, and so it is not surprising that it was reputedly a hit on the streets of Venice!

Il est bel et bon, commère, mon mari.  
Il estoit deux femmes toutes d'ung pays.  
Disanst l'une à l'autre - "Avez bon mary?"  
Il ne me courrousse, ne me bat aussy.  
Il faict le mesnaige,  
Il donne aux poulailles,  
Et je prens mes plaisirs.  
Commère, c'est pour rire  
Quand les poulailles crient:  
Petite coquette (co co co co da), qu'esse-cy?

*"I tell you, girl, my husband is handsome and fine,"  
Once two women from the same village were gossiping,  
Saying one to the other, "Do you have a good husband?"  
"He doesn't scold me, or beat me either.  
He does the chores,  
He feeds the chickens  
And I take my pleasure.  
Girl, you have to laugh  
to hear the cries of the chickens,  
'Little flirt (co, co, co, co, da), what is that?'"*

**As a bonus, Olivia Shotton sings Es ist Vollbracht from JS Bach's St John Passion: <https://youtu.be/oOktEAX1vNk>**

## **Jigsaw**

This week's picture is of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, who was executed for treason on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1547 - the last such execution under Henry VIII. You can find the jigsaw [here](#). Thinking about this week's poem, what do you make of his eyes? Can you see his neck?



## **Prayers**

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

## **RIP**

Joan Mallett.

## **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, Cortland.



The Reverend Cortland Fransella  
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Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM the King  
[Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk](mailto:Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk)

## **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.**

**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* \_\_\_\_\_ *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



### 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.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please notify the charity if you:

- want to cancel this declaration
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- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

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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](mailto:TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk)

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