



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

Dear friends,

I write firstly to thank everyone who has kindly written to me following my inclusion in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours List. It is indeed a great honour to be made a *Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order*. The order was founded in 1896, its spiritual home is the Savoy Chapel, and it is in the private gift of the Monarch and thus a great honour.

Anything I have achieved would not have been possible without Barbara and I'm so very sorry she is not here to share and celebrate this with me. However, I hope she is looking on and smiling. When I met The King two weeks ago, he touchingly spoke of his sorrow at Barbara's death; a very moving moment.

The Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

At last, the Chapel will be open again for three important weeks. Please do come and join us but do be aware that entry into the chapel will be through the vestry and not through the normal West door. On these three successive Sundays I'm trying to bring us all back together, not only for worship but also for a time of socialising after the service. Please see the details below.

29th 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.

6th 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.

13th 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!

With my best wishes, thoughts and prayers, Roger.

**Service details for Sunday 29th June 2025
Celebration of our Patron, St Peter in Chains**

0915 Holy Communion (White Tower)
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

Readings

Acts 12: 1-12.
Matthew 16: 13-19.

Collect for St Peter in Chains

O God, who didst loose the blessed apostle
Peter from his bonds and didst send
him forth unharmed: loose, we pray Thee,
the chains of our sins, and in Thy great mercy
keep us from all evil. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn and music to 'For all the saints, who from their labours rest'.

As next Sunday we shall be celebrating our patron St Peter I thought it might be nice to reflect upon the hymn 'For all the saints, who from their labours rest'. This popular and well-loved hymn was written by William Walsham How, who later became Bishop of Wakefield. It was written first as a processional hymn but today is sung either as a processional hymn or as a hymn of affirmation of the resurrection and the fulfilment of the Christian belief in life after death. The words are based on Hebrews chapter 12. Over the years the hymn has been set to a number of different tunes but we, like many other people, sing it to the tune *Sine Nomine* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1968) who set the words to music in 1904.

Although the hymn, in its original form, had ten verses we normally just sing eight, though I have included nine here. Each verse, step by step, affirms the Christian journey with words of bold reassurance. It's a favourite of many church-going people, and I'm one of them.

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

For the Evangelists, by whose blest word,
Like fourfold streams, the garden of the Lord,
Is fair and fruitful, be Thy Name adored.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on His way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Our Congregation

On Sunday 22nd June, we were welcomed by the Venerable Roger Preece at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine for an 11am service of sung Holy Communion.



Enjoying lunch after the service



Tower parishioners in their Sunday best.

Ave Verum - Gabriel Rheinberger (1839-1901)

Gabriel Rheinberger was one of the most important German composers of church music in the 19th century. His style combines classical structures with a lush harmonic palette creating rich romantic textures.

The music for this arrangement of *Ave Verum* was originally published by Rheinberger as *Nachtgesang* (Night Song), Op. 80, No. 5, and is a setting of a German poem by Robert Reinick, found in his collection *Liebesgarten* (Garden of Love). Douglas Walczak has reimagined this secular song by changing the text to that of the ancient Eucharistic hymn, *Ave Verum*. In the musical world this is called a 'contrafactum' - the substitution of one text for another while retaining the original melody - and is a technique that was especially prevalent in the 16th century. Rheinberger's original melody and harmony provide a fitting vehicle for this heartfelt text expressing some of the core tenets of Christianity.

Ave, verum corpus natum
de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum
fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum,
in mortis examine.
O dulcis, o pie,
O Jesu Fili Mariae.
In nobis, miserere mei nobis. Amen.

*Hail the true body, born
of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank
flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us
in the trial of death.
O sweet, O merciful,
O Jesus, Son of Mary.
Have mercy on me. Amen.*

Jigsaw

At the start of this year, the East Window of the Chapel was removed and taken off site for conservation work. In its place is a temporary window until the original window is re-fitted next year. In preparation for services in the Chapel resuming this week, the Chapel is undergoing a good clean!

Here you can see the Royal Pavement, and the East Window. The altar had been moved to ensure it wasn't damaged during the works but will soon be back in place for services.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1428bcf0a15b>



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, Rob, Kofi, Anselmo, Nick, John and Val.

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.



1 Tower Green
HM Tower of London
EC3N 4AB
07908 413045
Roger.Hall@hrp.org.uk
Twitter @RogerHall53

Our 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](#).

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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 _____
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Please notify the charity if you:

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- 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

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