



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

Dear friends,

For the last two terms our organist has been Hugh Rowlands, who has now been appointed as Assistant Director of Music at New College, Oxford. We wish him well as he moves on. His replacement will be Daniel Greenway. Daniel will be writing a short article for the Newsletter telling us about himself as we welcome him to the chapel. I like him already as he's a Liverpool Football Team supporter!

Short thought for the day.

The Labour Party Annual Conference has been discussing digital identification and the ongoing problem of migrants crossing the channel. In all of this, there appears to be a 'them and us' type of conversation. The parable of the wheat and the tares, in Matthew chapter 13, may give us some perspective on the issue. When Jesus tells this parable to those around him, they are perplexed that the wheat and tares should grow together in the field. Whose fault was this, they wonder. Was the seed bad to begin with? They ask their Master if they should gather up the weeds and burn them. However, Jesus tells them to wait; all will be sorted out at the time of the harvest.

We may sometimes ponder who the wheat and tares actually represent. Perhaps we ask ourselves whether we are in fact the weeds, and if so, why. We might also wonder about people who have different political views from those we hold, or perhaps different, or no, religious beliefs. The problem is that we often want to categorize people, sometimes on sight, without having full information about that person. Jesus' parable is clear: we are not the ones who judge between the wheat and the tares; that role is God's alone!

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

Advance notice: Harvest Festival will be celebrated on Sunday October 12th.

I'm hoping that The Reverend Nick Mottershead (Rector of Holy Sepulchre Church) will preach that day. Nick has been the driving force behind the success of the London Hygiene Bank, and his enthusiasm and determination are hugely infectious. Please could you bring along contributions from items suggested in the list below; not only will we give Nick those items collected, but our church collection that Sunday will also go to the London Hygiene Bank.



The Hygiene Bank collects new, unused, in-date personal care and household cleaning essentials. For health and safety reasons, they cannot accept opened, half-used or products past their best-before date.

The lists below are not exhaustive; their rule of thumb is, if you need them and use them, if you would gift them to a friend, then it is likely someone else needs and uses them too.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ○ Nappies (all sizes), pull ups and nighttime pants for older children | ○ Baby and kids shampoo |
| ○ Baby wipes | ○ Nit comb and shampoo |
| ○ Barrier cream | ○ Soft sponges |
| ○ Toothpaste and toothbrushes | ○ Bath bubbles |
| ○ Baby wash | ○ Shampoo and conditioner (for all hair types) |
| | ○ Period products |

- Skincare
- Body wipes
- Haircare
- Shower gel
- Deodorant
- Body spray
- Razors and shaving products
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Nail clippers
- Hand sanitiser
- Bodywash
- Facewash
- Cleanser and moisturising creams
- Body lotion
- Perfume
- Giftsets
- Laundry detergent
- Sponges and cloths
- Household cleaning items
- Loo roll
- Tissues
- Cleaning wipes
- Dish tabs
- Washing up liquid
- Toilet cleaner
- Polish and sprays

The Clink Restaurant at Brixton Prison.

Some years ago, a group of us from the chapel had lunch at the prison. It was an amazing experience: the food was excellent, getting into the prison was a revelation and all the cooks and waiters were inmates. The aim of the restaurant is to teach them appropriate skills, so that they can acquire basic qualifications in food preparation and catering to help them find employment after their release. Many café and restaurant chains, notably Pizza Express, take on and train newly qualified ex-offenders. Everyone who went to The Clink found it a thoroughly enjoyable and enriching experience. I'm hoping to take a group in November, so please let me know if you're interested in coming along.

Fairtrade Fortnight | 22 September – 5 October 2025



Fairtrade Fortnight celebrates the farmers and workers who grow our food and promotes the principles of fair trade. Each year, thousands of individuals, businesses, and groups across the UK unite to share the stories of those who produce our food and beverages, mine our gold, or grow the cotton for our clothes. This annual event raises awareness about the exploitation faced by many in the supply chain and highlights why choosing Fairtrade products is so important.

Service details for Sunday 5th October 2025 The 16th Sunday after Trinity

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

Readings

2 Timothy 1: 1-4.
Luke 17: 5-10.

Psalm 137: 1-6.

Collect for the 16th Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the week

I was recently asked if I could recommend a prayer by St Thomas More, as he is buried in the chapel and his shrine is a place of pilgrimage. More is known to have written many prayers, but the one I have chosen for this week is believed to have been written whilst he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. It's a simple prayer, short but profound, asking God for a pure heart that perceives what is good and focuses less on self-concern than on seeking joy and humour in life. In this context, an appeal to be given a sense of humour might make some people feel slightly uncomfortable, but humour is an important part of what makes us human. I like to think that God is relieved when, occasionally, our conversations with Him are tinged with the occasional moment of humour!

‘Lord, grant me a holy heart that sees always what is fine and pure and is not frightened at the sight of sin, but creates order wherever it goes.

Grant me a heart that knows nothing of boredom, weeping and sighing.

Let me not be concerned with the bothersome thing I call ‘myself’.

Lord, give me a sense of humour and I will find happiness in life and profit for others’.

The following quotation is also attributed to St Thomas More: ‘I do not care very much what men say of me, provided that God approves of me.’ It highlights his commitment to personal integrity, even if it means facing human disapproval or criticism.

St Thomas More (1478-1535)

Carols by Candlelight, Thursday 11th December, 7pm

Sir David Suchet

Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Daniel Greenway, organ. Colm Carey, director

The Choir of the Chapels Royal will perform a concert of Christmas music especially for the Chapel congregation on the 11th of December. The carols will be interspersed with Christmas readings performed by **Sir David Suchet**.



Featuring carols old and new, sacred and secular - most of which you will not hear during services - the programme will include the amazing *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams as well as the world premiere of *two* new pieces being composed for us as I write!

We are very keen to fill the Chapel for what will be a joyous celebration of the Nativity. It would be great to see you there! Please do spread the word and encourage family and friends to join us.

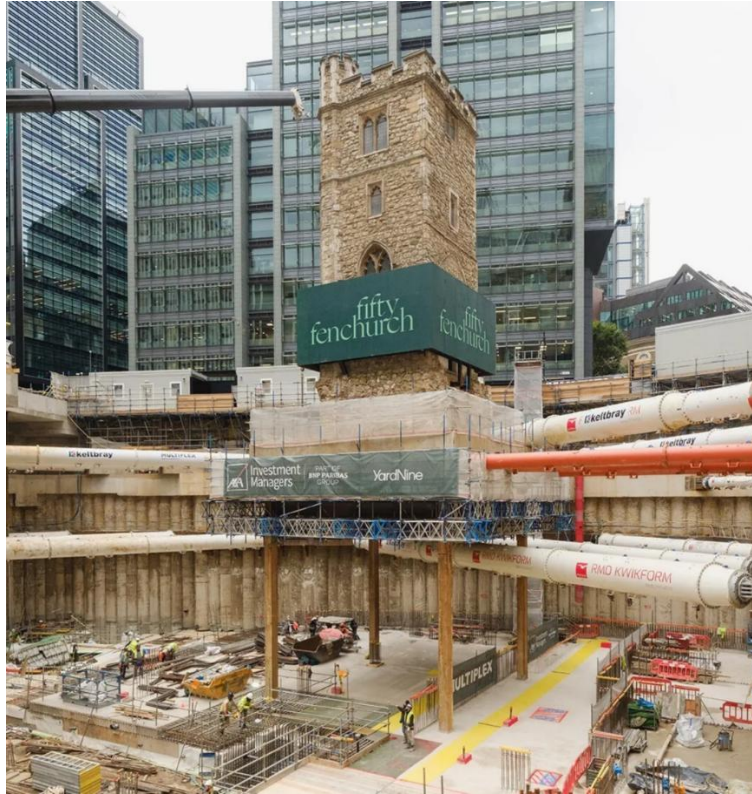
Tickets £32. Available to purchase soon. I shall keep you updated with when they go on sale through the newsletter.

They will be available to purchase online - [Carols by Candlelight | Tower of London | Historic Royal Palaces](#)

Jigsaw

All Hallows Staining tower, the remains of a Grade I listed 800-year-old church, standing on a podium 45ft up in the air. <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=2b211179c341>

Read more about it here - [An 800-year-old London church tower is floating 45ft off the ground - here's why | News UK | Metro News](#)



Prayers

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

RIP

Charles Guthrie, Bob Smith, Roger Carloni and Margarete Thiede.

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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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 _____ *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	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.

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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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