



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

Dear friends,

Last Sunday was Advent Sunday, the start of the New Christian Year. Advent (which means coming) refers to the four weeks of preparation before celebrating the birth of Christ at Christmas. In the chapel, December is very much a month when we ***look outwards*** to the wider community in many different kinds of ways. In addition to supporting various charities through all the Christmas Carol Services, concerts and other events in the chapel, I have been grateful for the response to this year's winter coat and shoe appeal. It saddens me greatly that in a city like London, there are still people who can't afford a weatherproof coat or jacket, or who find it hard to buy a strong pair of shoes. There is nothing more dispiriting than having wet feet and constantly feeling cold. The coat appeal has now finished (and thank you for your great generosity) but there is still time to let me have ***pairs of good quality trainers, for either men or women***. The deadline for this is **December 17th**.

Whether it's concerts, Carol Services or a Christmas appeal, it seems to me that what we do as a Christian community is an *outward expression* of our *inward faith*. Throughout Jesus's ministry he healed the sick, restored sight to the blind and told stories about going the extra mile to help people, such as in the parable of the Good Samaritan. I know that many of you are involved in outreach and charitable giving outside the chapel and for that I commend and thank you. I'm always reminded too of those words from the Bible: 'God loves a cheerful giver'.

David Rees

On November 26th I conducted the funeral of David Rees, a much-loved member of the chapel and of the local community in St Katharine Docks. David left instructions that he wanted his final journey to be in a horse and carriage and so, starting from Surrey Quays, a stately procession wound its way over Tower Bridge towards the East London Crematorium. May David rest in peace, and we hold Vicki his daughter, and his family, in our prayers.



My hearty thanks to the team who stayed behind after the Advent Carol Service and to those who joined us as well, to decorate the chapel ready for all our Christmas services. I especially want to thank Geraldine and Gary for organising the event and for getting up at 5am to be at Billingsgate Flower Market to buy all that was necessary to make the chapel look so beautiful.



Lastly, please remember Colm and the choir in your prayers during this particularly busy period.

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

Service Details for Sunday 7th December 2025
The Second Sunday in Advent

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

Psalm 72: 1-7.

Readings Isaiah 35: 1-10 & Matthew 11: 2-10

Anthem O thou, the central orb (Wood)

The Collect for The Second Sunday in Advent

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Poem of the week: On Wenlock Edge

Advent poetry captures the anticipation and spiritual reflection of the season, with famous poems invoking themes of hope, love and preparation for Christmas. Being a Shropshire lad myself, I find that A E Housman highlights many of these themes in his poetry, since this is the season of strong winds, fallen leaves everywhere and even snow. It is also a time when we hope and pray that we will move from darkness to light, as the shortest day is soon to come. The word Uricon in the poem refers to the Roman city of Viroconium Cornoviorum or Uriconium, which was near modern-day Wroxeter and was the fourth largest Roman city in Britain. The poet watches the gales threshing the forest on Wenlock Edge and ponders his own existence and troubles, his mind also on an unknown Roman counterpart, long since dead under the ashes of the old city, who will have gazed at the effects of these strong winds on the trees, with similar feelings of pain.

On Wenlock Edge

On Wenlock Edge the wood's in trouble;
His forest fleece the Wrekin heaves;
The gale, it plies the saplings double,
And thick on Severn snow the leaves.

'Twould blow like this through holt and hanger
When Uricon the city stood:
'Tis the old wind in the old anger,
But then it threshed another wood.

Then, 'twas before my time, the Roman
At yonder heaving hill would stare:
The blood that warms an English yeoman,
The thoughts that hurt him, they were there.

There, like the wind through woods in riot,
Through him the gale of life blew high;
The tree of man was never quiet:
Then 'twas the Roman, now 'tis I.

The gale, it plies the saplings double,
It blows so hard, 'twill soon be gone:
To-day the Roman and his trouble
Are ashes under Uricon.

A E Housman, 1858-1936



Jigsaw



The Christmas decorations have gone up across the Tower of London.

This week's jigsaw is of the decorations outside the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula on a sunny December morning.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=08661007c1dc>

Prayers

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

RIP

Jill Ridgeon and all those killed in the Hong Kong fire.

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.

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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



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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



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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.*

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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:

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