



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

Dear friends,

A very Happy New Year to you all! Global warming seems to be having time off as I write, but there is something invigorating about the bright winter weather which makes up for the drop in temperature. I have never been a great one for making New Year Resolutions – and I have been an abject failure at keeping any of them. I seem to remember that it used to be quite common at this time of year to greet friends and family, asking them what resolutions they had made but, in my personal experience, that tradition seems to have withered. I cannot say that I mourn its passing. If, however, you were by any chance still casting around for a possible New Year resolution and have not yet been confirmed in the Church of England, we can help. Preparation sessions are available for anyone who would like to be confirmed on Maundy Thursday by someone who, at this stage, I can describe only as a mystery bishop. Our own Bishop and Dean of the Chapels Royal, Sarah, will have formally become Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of January but rest assured that we shall find a bishop for the day! If you would like to consider this, please get in touch with me (most easily at fransella@btinternet.com or 07775 738063).

Do pray for Bishop Sarah as she embarks on her new ministry. I do not think that I can be accused of being contentious when I say that she is going to both need our prayers and God's help in tackling the myriad issues that will be waiting for her from day one.

Closer to home, please be aware that, with effect from Sunday 1st February, we shall again suspend services in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula while the next stage of work takes place – this time, on the roof. Therefore, from 1st February until at least the middle of March, we shall revert to having just one service each Sunday, which will be a service of Said Holy Communion in the Chapel of St John the Evangelist in the White Tower at 9.30 am. Once the roof work is complete, we should be able to revert permanently to our usual pattern of services.

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

Sunday Services 11 January 2026
First Sunday after Epiphany – the Baptism of Christ
0915 Said Holy Communion in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula
Responses: Smith Psalm 29
Te Deum: Gibbons (Short Service)
Anthem: Almighty God, who by the leading of a star (Bull)

The Collect for the Day

O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people
which call upon thee;
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Poem of the week: Janus

Given that we are still in that period when it seems appropriate to greet each other with a ‘Happy New Year!’, here is a poem about that very subject. There is no information about the poet. Some might argue that this is just prose, set out in poetry format, and not like the ‘proper’ poetry we did at school. Perhaps it’s a further reminder that, as L P Hartley wrote, “The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.” If so, when does ‘the past’ begin and end?

Janus

We don’t believe in the Roman gods
but sometimes they’re useful.

Janus, Roman god of January,
looks both ways:
back to the year just gone
and forward to the one to come.

How often we say, “Let’s forget the past”
or words to that effect,
perhaps especially at the turning of the year
when we think that surely the twelvemonth to come must be better
and the one just past is best forgotten.

But we are our past:
without memory we have no identity.
Good or bad, what’s done is done and,
for that matter,
so is what’s been done to us.

“Forgive and forget.”
But if we did forget,
how could we forgive what we had then forgotten?
Forgiving is not a moment but a process.

“Don’t look back; look forward!”
It sounds like good advice
but blanking the past won’t work.
It has a funny habit of popping up when we least expect or want it.
And, anyway, God knows.

We cannot change the past.
Only the future can we change.
To do so honestly, we must accept the burden of the past.

We don’t believe in the Roman gods
but sometimes they’re useful.

Jigsaw This week's picture is of New Year fireworks over Tower Bridge. You can find the jigsaw [here](#).



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

We pray for the many people who died in the dreadful fire at Crans-Montana on January 1st, and for all those whom we love but see no more.

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.



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Our Safeguarding Officer

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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] [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	[your initials and surname]

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 _____

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Please notify the charity if you:

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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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