



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

Dear friends,

We were all delighted to return to St Peter ad Vincula last Sunday morning, even though it is still under scaffolding. The project to cover the chapel in scaffolding and then the roof with a canopy is almost complete. This means that from now until the end of the summer, our services will return to their normal pattern. The latest picture will give you an idea of the work in progress. This week all the monuments in the chapel are being surveyed; some will need minor restoration and repairs and others cleaning, but this will not disrupt the life of the chapel. All those booked in to be married in the chapel after Easter have seen the extent of the work and are content with the implications for their weddings.



Scaffolding across the roof and on the south side of the chapel.



External scaffold build and temporary scaffolding for the monument survey.

I was delighted to attend Archbishop Sarah's Installation at Canterbury Cathedral on March 25th, and we continue to hold her in our prayers as she begins this new chapter in her ministry.

Please continue to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters across the Middle East as the war continues, praying also for a swift end to the conflict and for all the many people killed, injured or deeply affected by the tragic events.

This coming Sunday marks the start of **Holy Week**, the most important week in the church calendar: **29th March: Palm Sunday, 2nd April: Maundy Thursday, 3rd April: Good Friday and Sunday 5th April: Easter Sunday**. Details of these services are below.

2nd April – Maundy Thursday

Chapel of St John the Evangelist White Tower

1900 Maundy Thursday Service

Readings 1 Cor11: 17-end and John13: 1-17.

Hymns 310, 276, 304, 272.

3rd April – Good Friday

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

1900 Good Friday Meditation

5th April – Easter Sunday

0915 Holy Communion

Chapel of St John the Evangelist White Tower

1100 State Parade and Easter Communion

Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula

Readings Colossians 3: 1-7 and John 20: 1-10.

Hymns 110, 115,124,120.

On Palm Sunday the crowd cheered '*Hosannah to the Son of David!*'; the same crowd who later cried out '*Crucify him!*'. It is sad how fickle and contrary people can be, even those who call themselves Christians. Like many churches, we will be distributing palm crosses to the congregation this Sunday. I have always encouraged people to place these crosses somewhere they can clearly be seen; I have seen them in cars, above the kitchen sink and by the front door. Our willingness to place the palm cross in a significant place demonstrates our willingness to follow the cross of Christ. Jesus knew, as he processed towards Jerusalem, that he was ineluctably walking towards his death, the ultimate sacrifice he would make on behalf of us all. Perhaps the question I ask myself often on Palm Sunday is how often I might have cheered his name and then denied him.

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

Please note: - Change to Chapel service time after Easter

From Sunday 19th April our second service will be moving from 11am to **11.15am.**

**Service details for Sunday 29th March 2026
Palm Sunday**

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula.
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula, with blessing of Palms.

Readings: Philippians 2: 5-11 & Matthew 21: 1-13.

Collect for the Sunday Next before Easter (Palm Sunday)

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; Mercifully grant, that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for Palm Sunday

For many people Holy Week is a kind of pilgrimage. Starting on Palm Sunday, every day is a step nearer to celebrating the Resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday.

Pilgrimage is such an important and wonderful word. There are many kinds of pilgrimages, and some are more challenging than others. One of the great places of pilgrimage in the United Kingdom is Iona, a small island off the northwest coast of Scotland. For centuries Christians have either lived there or made a pilgrimage to the Abbey on the Island. There are many Celtic prayers associated with Iona but one that is associated with pilgrimage, and which I feel is a prayer we can use in preparation for Holy Week, is St Brigid's Prayer. St Brigid, who is the patroness saint of Ireland, was the abbess and founder of a double monastery and abbey for men and women at Kildare, as well as several other convents for nuns. She lived from 451-525. Her prayers found their way to Iona and were used by the early settlers on the island. It is thought that Brigid's mother was an enslaved woman who came to faith through the preaching of St Patrick. Brigid is renowned for her healing ministry and for the miracles she is said to have performed, especially for the weak and vulnerable and for those of low rank,

St Brigid's Prayer

I arise today
through a mighty strength:
God's power to guide me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's eyes to watch over me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to give me speech,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to shelter me,
God's host to secure me.

St Brigid 451-525.

Gardening corner

Cymbidium – Outside Roger’s house at the Tower



Forsythia – From Tracy’s garden. Which will be our Jigsaw this week.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=017db1c2c454>



Music from the Choir of the Chapels Royal
Henry Purcell, 'The Plaint' – Aisla Campbell

Henry Purcell's song 'The Plaint' (from The Fairy Queen) is a poignant lament built over a repeating ground bass, allowing the singer to unfold a deeply emotional meditation on sorrow and longing. Its flowing melodic lines and suspensions intensify the sense of grief, demonstrating Purcell's extraordinary ability to fuse text and music into a unified emotional statement.

“O, let me weep, for ever weep, my eyes no more shall welcome sleep;
I'll hide me from the sight of day, and sigh my soul away.”

Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Rob, Kofi, Nick, John, Donald, Christopher, Peter, Wayne and Sheila.

RIP

Ursula Kosseda, Lucy Bradley and Audrey Holmes.

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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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](#).

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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 _____

_____ Post Code _____ Email _____

Phone No _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Please notify the charity if you:

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- change your name or home address
- 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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