



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

Dear friends,

Last week was one of those times in the life of the Tower when we remembered two important people, a Queen and a King. Buried within the Royal Pavement Area inside the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula is Queen Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, who served as Queen of England from 1533-36. On Tuesday we commemorated her death by execution on 19th May 1536. Each year on the anniversary of her death, flowers are either sent to the Tower or handed in and placed on her memorial on Tower Green. Prayers are said by me, and we pause and remember her. There continue to be mixed views of Anne Boleyn, but what everyone agrees is that she died quite innocently of the accusation of treason brought against her.



Two days later on 21st May, we remembered King Henry VI who died, possibly bludgeoned or stabbed to death, on that date in 1471 while praying in the Wakefield Tower. It is likely that he was murdered on the instructions of Edward IV. Henry was the founder of Eton College and King's College Cambridge and is remembered as a pious, gentle and peace-loving monarch who lost France after his father, Henry V, had claimed most of it during his lifetime. Henry VI's life and death are called to mind in a short service held each year, called *The Ceremony of Lilies and Roses*, during which two Eton scholars lay roses for King's College and lilies for Eton College in the oratory, set up in 1923 to his memory.

Spanning almost a thousand years of English history, the Tower of London and the Chapel Royal remember not just great kings and queens but many ordinary people whose lives have come to an end. Only this week, I was asked to pray for the father of someone whom I married in the chapel. I am always happy to do this, so please just ask.

For those of you who follow '**Inside the Tower of London**', Series 9 has just begun on Wednesday evenings on Channel 5 at 8pm.

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

Service details for Sunday 31st May 2026

Trinity Sunday

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1115 Holy Communion with baptism, St Peter ad Vincula

Readings Revelations 4: 1-11 and John 3: 1-15.

Anthem Libera nos – Deliver us (John Sheppard)

Collect for Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast given

unto us thy servants grace by the confession

of a true faith to acknowledge the glory of the

eternal Trinity, and in the power of the Divine

Majesty to worship the Unity; We beseech thee,

that thou wouldest keep us steadfast in this faith,

and evermore defend us from all adversities, who

livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Poem of the week

Recently, many people took advantage of the Early May Bank Holiday weekend to take a short break away. I spoke to someone who had been to South Wales and who exclaimed, ‘Guess what, Roger - it didn’t rain!’ The assumption was of course that it had always rained previously there. (I sympathised, as this has often been my experience when visiting my son and his family in Glasgow.)

By chance I was reading at that time a book about R.S. Thomas (1913-2000), a Welsh poet and Anglican priest. Thomas read Latin at Bangor University and, after training as St Michael’s Theological College, Llandaff, was ordained into the Church in Wales where he served as priest for the rest of his life. Aside from his poetry, he was noted for his spirituality, his nationalism and his dislike of the anglicisation of Wales.

The poem of Thomas’s that I have chosen for this week reminds me of feelings when walking across a moor. It also recalls the sense of God’s presence that can be experienced when walking into an empty church; peace, quiet and serene holiness breathing out of walls in spaces where people may have knelt and prayed for centuries. There is a [YouTube video](#) available of R.S. Thomas reading *The Moor*, and it is very moving to hear his voice.

The Moor

It was like a church to me.

I entered it on soft foot,

Breath held like a cap in the hand.

It was quiet.

What God was there made himself felt,

Not listened to, in clean colours

That brought a moistening of the eye,

In the movement of the wind over grass.

There were no prayers said. But stillness

Of the heart’s passions – that was praise

Enough; and the mind’s cession

Of its kingdom. I walked on,

Simple and poor, while the air crumbled

And broke on me generously as bread.

R.S. Thomas (1913 – 2000)

Lilies and Roses



Jigsaw - Liles and Roses laid in the Wakefield Tower

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=3f14cf89006b>



Our Congregation

On Saturday 23rd May, Josh and Megan were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



A historic night at the Tower of London

Last week, history was made with the first all-women military and operational lineup for the ancient Ceremony of the Keys. This included the Escort to the Keys, the historical Yeoman Warder roles of Watchman and the After Dark Supervisor, who are responsible for the physical locking up of the fortress, and the Deputy Governor of the Tower.



Daisies and Valerian in Tracy's garden.



Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Louise, Rob, Kofi, Nick, John, Chris, Mikey, Howard.

RIP

John Borman

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

Anna Kimber, Deputy Governor and Head of Operations, HM Tower of London: Anna.Kimber@hrp.org.uk Telephone: 07785 954549.

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 _____ [*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.

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

Registered Charity Number 1160859