



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

Dear friends,

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the Patronal Festival on Wednesday July 1st, 2026, at 1830. If you haven't yet done so and intend joining us, then please let Debbie (Deborah.Corbett@hrp.org.uk) know. The more the merrier! It should be a lovely evening.

The chapel continues to be busy with weddings, with three having taken place since the start of May and three more to go before we close for Court Leave on July 19th. I always assure these couples that they are prayed for every week in the chapel ahead of their weddings. One young couple wrote to me after their wedding to say how much they had appreciated being prayed for by name at the morning service. The parents of the bride, attending the chapel with their family prior to the wedding, confessed to the couple afterwards that the spirit of care they felt in the chapel had totally overturned their previous cynicism about their daughter's wish for a church wedding. Conversations over coffee after church with other congregants and hearing their daughter prayed for and made welcome in a place with which they had no previous connection, had completely changed their attitude to a wedding in church. As I have said many times, *'Christianity is caught, not taught'*. Jesus attracted people's attention by his simple acts of charity: healing the blind, sick and deaf and forgiving sinners. When we smile at a visitor in church, say hello and chat to them, or speak to and reassure someone who looks alone and lost, they feel welcomed, acknowledged and included. Such simple acts can make a huge difference.

Some of you may know James and Carol Littlewood, who are 'irregular regulars' at the chapel, normally attending the 0915 service. They spend a good portion of each year on their boat 'Paddington IV', which is usually moored in St Katharine Dock. After the recent incident in the English Channel between a yacht and a Russian frigate, James sent me this story and has given me permission to include it in this week's newsletter.

'At least in 2009 they did not try shooting at us!' We left the Polish port of Hel to go to Lithuania; this involved passing the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. There are still today regular reports of Russian navy vessels harassing innocent shipping. We had carefully set a course over twelve miles off the closest bit of the Kaliningrad coast. We left Hel at about 03.30am and as usual Carol had gone straight back to bed. She took over the watch at 10.00 and I went to bed. It was not long before she woke me and said, "I think I am being chased by a Russian destroyer". Clever girl is Carol: she can recognise a Russian destroyer. For the next hour some fairly terse words were spoken between 'Paddington IV' and the destroyer. We were given, not asked, a new course to steer, and then shadowed and hounded for about six hours. It added 50 nautical miles to our journey to Klaipėda. I am still wondering about invoicing the Russian Embassy for the additional fuel used.' (*Written in late 2009.*)

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

Service details for Sunday 28th June 2026
The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1115 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

Coffee/tea/soft drinks after church – all welcome

Readings: Romans 8: 18-23; Luke 6: 36 – 42.

Communion motet: Tu es Petrus (Palestrina)

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O God the protector of all that trust in thee,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy;
Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that,
thou being our ruler and guide, we may so
pass through things temporal, that we finally
lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O
heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake
our Lord. **Amen.**

Celtic Prayer

This week I had a conversation with a lady who is a Christian of long standing. She is a person who does not wear her Christianity on her sleeve, but who lives a life of constant prayer, giving help to many people. She spoke of her sadness at the never-ending war between Russia and Ukraine, the desperate situation in Gaza and the 'utterly mindless, brutal murder' of baby Preston Davey. We sat quietly together; she wasn't expecting an answer or an explanation but just wanted to say what was on her mind and in her heart. I shared her sadness; years of ministry have convinced me that God also shares our sadness, walks with us, and feels every moment of our pain. I often find at times like this that I turn to the old Celtic prayers which speak to us down the generations. I hope you might find this prayer by David Adam, Anglican priest and author, helpful. David served for 13 years as the Vicar of Lindisfarne (Holy Island) and is known for his nature-inspired Celtic spirituality. The prayer underlines his focus on finding God's radiance in the midst of shadows and is a powerful petition for comfort and peace.

Light of the world,
Bless all who are in darkness,
Shine upon us in love.
Be with the despairing,
Support the depressed,
Comfort the suicidal.
Give us your hope,
Give us your joy,
Give us your Peace.
Lighten our darkness
Today and evermore.
Amen

The Reverend Canon David Adam, 1936-2020

Our congregation

On Saturday 21st June, Jessica and Jack were married in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.



Tower of London

A spectacular aerial stunt saw a giant flying replica of a dragon take to the skies above the Tower of London for the launch of *House of Dragons* on HBO Max.

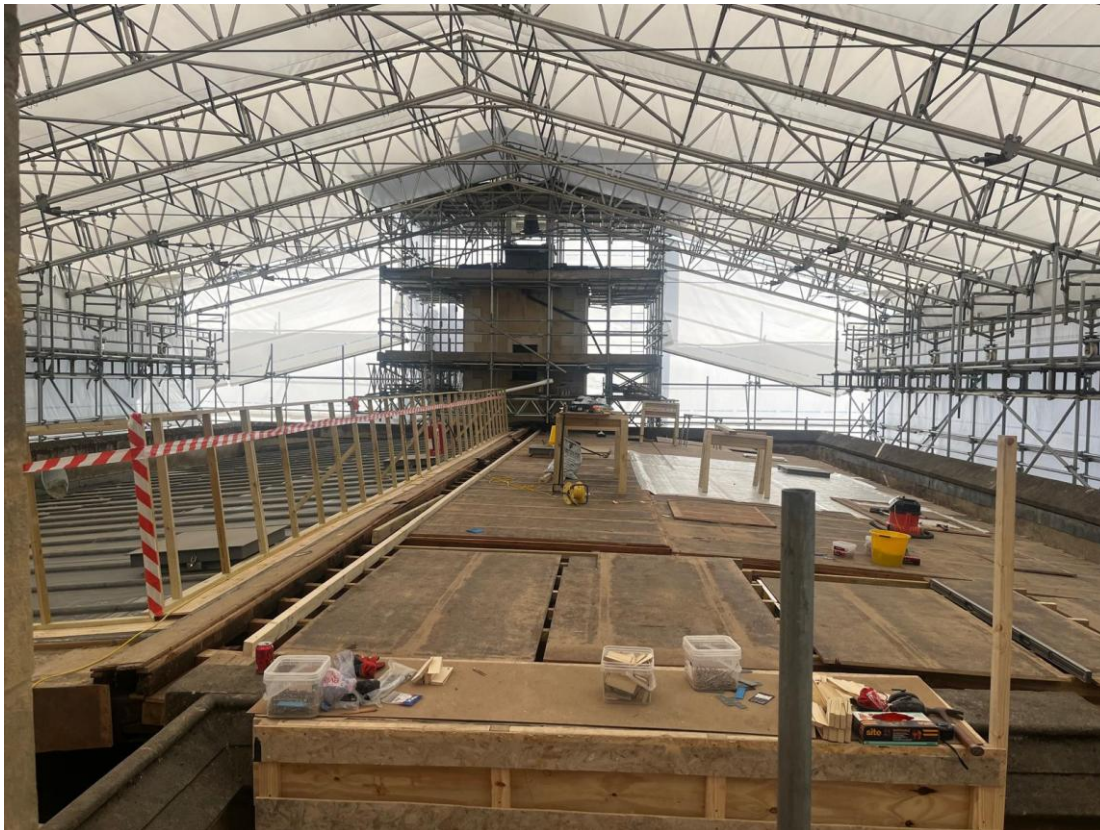
The dragon weighs 13kg and was built over three months using a carbon fibre and aluminium skeleton, with vacuum-formed Depron foam and hand-finished airbrushed detailing. It features: an 8-metre wingspan, 23+ moving mechanical components, Impeller-driven leg propulsion, fully articulated head, neck and tail, and has a top-flight speed of up to 35 km/h.



Jigsaw

A view of the Chapel roof during the ongoing works.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=141f27694752>



Hollyhocks from 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 and Howard.

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