



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

Dear friends,

Please remember that our 1115 service on Sunday 11th October will be at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine (RFSK - at 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS) and that there will be **no** services at the Tower that day. Tea and coffee will be available at RFSK from about 1030 and lunch will be available after the service at £25 per head for those who choose to stay, followed by an optional tour of the Foundation. We are, as always, grateful to the Master of the Royal Foundation, the Venerable Roger Preece, who will also be our preacher on this occasion. If you have never visited, I do urge you to come to this service where you will experience a remarkable oasis of serenity in the heart of the East End. The nearest public transport is the Limehouse Station on the Docklands Light Railway. As you leave the station, you will see a shop called the Grocery Station ahead of you. Go diagonally left to a gate which will lead you to the Yurt Café. Go past the Yurt (if you can resist the aroma of fresh coffee) and you will come out into the end of the Butcher Row cul-de-sac; RFSK is on your left. Parking is available (payment by phone or app).

On the 18th of October we shall revert to our normal pattern of 0915 Said Holy Communion, followed by an 1115 service (on this occasion Choral Matins), both back in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. That pattern will continue until the time comes for the scaffolding finally to be taken down, which will see us once more back in the White Tower for a while. Sorry about all these changes but, once the work is completed, we should see no further disruption.

Turning to current events at this time - the height of the party conference season - Alastair Campbell famously (or was it notoriously?) said on behalf of Tony Blair, 'We don't do religion.' Some think that in the church we should reciprocate by saying, 'We don't do politics.' That, however, would seem to me to suggest a withdrawal from the world around us. What we can properly say is that, as a church, we do not do party politics. The church should never be any one political 'party at prayer'. Faced, however, with phenomena such as international aggression, racism, intimidation, street violence, attacks on ethnic and religious communities, not to mention the scandals of homelessness, hunger and abuse (to name but a few contemporary issues), we should surely, both as individuals and as institutions, stand up for our Gospel values. To do otherwise would be to render vacuous our regular recitation of our Lord's words, 'Love thy neighbour as thyself.' We are lucky to live in a democracy, however imperfect, which enables us to have a voice in effecting change for the better. Let's all use it – or we'll lose it.

With all good wishes and blessings,

Cortland.

Service details for Sunday 11th October 2026
The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

1115 Choral Holy Communion

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, 2 Butcher Row, London, E14 8DS

NB: No services at the Tower of London this day

Readings

Ephesians 4:17-end and Matthew 9:1-8

Collect for The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

O GOD, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee;
Mercifully grant, that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week: *The British*, by Benjamin Zephaniah

Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah (1958-2023) was a British writer, dub poet, actor, musician and professor of poetry and creative writing. Over his lifetime, he was awarded 20 honorary doctorates in recognition of his contributions to literature, education and the arts. He was included in *The Times* list of Britain's top 50 post-war writers in 2008. In his work, Zephaniah drew on his lived experiences of incarceration, racism and his Jamaican heritage. He did not have an easy childhood. He was educated at Broadway School, Birmingham, from which he was expelled aged 13, unable to read or write, owing to dyslexia. He was sent to an approved school and, later on, was imprisoned for burglary. The gift, during his childhood, of an old, manual typewriter inspired him to become a writer. (It is now in the collection of Birmingham Museums Trust.) He published several collections of poems, as well as novels, specifically for young people. *Talking Turkeys* (1994), his first poetry book for children, was reprinted after six weeks. Zephaniah died on 7 December 2023, at the age of 65, after being diagnosed with a brain tumour only eight weeks previously.



Benjamin Zephaniah

Zephaniah's poetry is deceptively simple. Take, for example, his poem *Who's who*.

I used to think nurses
Were women,
I used to think police
Were men,
I used to think poets
Were boring,
Until I became one of them.

He was a vegan, which probably underlies one of his poems which is a favourite with children, *Talking Turkeys*:

Be nice to yu turkeys dis Christmas
Cos' turkeys just wanna hav fun
Turkeys are cool, turkeys are wicked
An every turkey has a Mum.
Be nice to yu turkeys dis Christmas,
Don't eat it, keep it alive,
It could be yu mate, an not on your plate
Say, Yo! Turkey I'm on your side.
I got lots of friends who are turkeys
An all of dem fear Christmas time,
Dey wanna enjoy it, dey say humans destroyed it
An humans are out of dere mind,
Yeah, I got lots of friends who are turkeys
Dey all hav a right to a life,
Not to be caged up an genetically made up
By any farmer an his wife.

Turkeys just wanna play reggae
Turkeys just wanna hip-hop
Can yu imagine a nice young turkey saying,
'I cannot wait for de chop',
Turkeys like getting presents, dey wanna watch Christmas TV,
Turkeys hav brains an turkeys feel pain
In many ways like yu an me.

I once knew a turkey called...Turkey.
He said "Benji, explain to me please,
Who put de turkey in Christmas
An what happens to Christmas trees?"
I said "I am not too sure, turkey
But it's nothing to do wid Christ Mass
Humans get greedy an waste more dan need be
An business men mek loadsa cash'.

Be nice to yu turkey dis Christmas
Invite dem indoors fe sum greens
Let dem eat cake an let dem partake
In a plate of organic grown beans,
Be nice to yu turkey dis Christmas
An spare dem de cut of de knife,
Join Turkeys United an dey'll be delighted
An yu will mek new friends 'FOR LIFE'.

From: *Talking Turkeys* © 1994, Puffin Books

He regarded poetry as essentially oral not written. You can hear him reciting *Talking Turkeys* [here](#). He had an infectious laugh, and one can often sense a playful tone in his poetry, even when it deals with weighty and controversial issues. Given his own lifelong experience of racism and his vocal opposition to far-right extremists, it is interesting to note the light-hearted manner in which he approaches the idea of 'racial purity' in his poem *The British* – by way of a recipe.

The British (serves 60 million)

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures
And let them settle,
Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.

Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years.
Add lots of Norman French to some
Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,
Trinidadians and Bajans with some Ethiopians, Chinese,
Vietnamese and Sudanese.

Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians
And Pakistanis,
Combine with some Guyanese
And turn up the heat.

Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese
And Palestinians
Then add to the melting pot.

Leave the ingredients to simmer.

As they mix and blend, allow their languages to flourish
Binding them together with English.

Allow time to be cool.

Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,
Serve with justice
And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter, unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain. Give justice and equality to all.

Benjamin Zephaniah (1958-2023)

Jigsaw

This week's jigsaw is of *The Good Samaritan* by Vincent van Gogh. The jigsaw can be found at: <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=12d9e8010d96>



Tracy's Garden – Morning Glory



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.

RIP George Bush (Priest) and Josephine Szyber.

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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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](#).

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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



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.*

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Please notify the charity if you:

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- change your name or home address
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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:

TowerofLondonChapelAdministrator@hrp.org.uk

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