



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

Dear friends,

Thursday May 29th marks the feast of the Ascension. On this day, we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus as he returned to his Father in Heaven forty days after Easter Day. At one time this was a major holiday, a red-letter day in the church's calendar and the occasion for a procession as choirs sang the great Ascension Day hymn, '*Hail, the day that sees him rise, Alleluia, Glorious to his native skies, Alleluia*'. For some people, the feast of the Ascension is a difficult concept to understand. This is perhaps best illustrated by some of the more bizarre paintings that have been produced over the years, and the National Gallery has several different interpretations of the Ascension. For me, at the heart of this moment in Jesus's life it is 'God in Christ, takes that humanity back to God'. In other words, as we are in Christ we are, through Christ, in simple terms brought back to God. We might even say that we become part of the Trinity in our final ascension. At the heart of the Christian faith is the theological concept of the Paschal Mystery: the suffering, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. By these acts, Jesus made possible our salvation and that of the world. We just need to turn to him and accept this gift by believing.



You might like to go to the National Gallery website and look at the various paintings of the Ascension. You can ask yourself which ones resonate with you, which ones provoke you and which ones perhaps simply make you laugh!

The Chapel: please take note of the service details in the separate box. I hope to see as many of you as possible at all four services.

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

The Sunday after Ascension 1st June 2025

0930 Holy Communion (White Tower)

Readings 1 Peter 4: 7-11.

John 15: 26 – 16: 4a.

Collect for the Sunday after Ascension

O God the King of glory, who hast exalted
thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph
unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee,
leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine
Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the
same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone
before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the
Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

22nd June 2025: The First Sunday after Trinity
11am Service at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, with our choir.
No service at the Tower. Further details to follow.

The following services are all back in St Peter ad Vincula:

29th June 2025: The Second Sunday after Trinity
We will be celebrating our Patronal Festival at 11am.
Drinks and light refreshments will be served after the service

6th July 2025: The Third Sunday after Trinity
Choral Matins at 11am, with coffee after church.

13th July 2025: The Fourth Sunday after Trinity.
Holy Communion at 11am and the last service before the summer break.
This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch which (weather permitting) will take place on long benches outside 1 Tower Green. (Should it be wet, lunch will take place indoors.) Wine and soft drinks will be provided by the chapel. Do come along!

Poem of the week

John McGrath was born in 1935 in Birkenhead. After National Service he attended St John's College, Oxford. He is best remembered for being a playwright, and he worked for the BBC where he wrote and directed many of the episodes of *Z-Cars* in the 1960s and 70s. He was a socialist and many of the themes in his plays and poetry reflect his political beliefs. He was known for his work with the 7.84 Theatre Company which he established, along with his wife Elizabeth, and which also tackled radical issues. In the poem *Song*, a post-apocalyptic future is envisioned, where nature reclaims abandoned cities. The poem shows nature's triumph over human destruction, as seen in the description of the resurgence of wildlife and creates a contrast between past and present. So much of the imagery is close to home, and, with so many foxes roaming urban streets today, it's a poem that also feels highly relevant.

Song

And when our streets are green again
When metalled roads are green
And girls walk barefoot through the weeds
Of Regent Street, Saint Martin's Lane

And children hide in factories
Where burdock blooms and vetch and rust,
And elms and oaks and chestnut trees
Are tall again and hope is lost

When up the Strand the foxes glide
And hedgehogs sniff and wildcats yell
And golden orioles come back
To flash through Barnes and Clerkenwell

When governments and industries
Lie choked by weeds in fertile rain
For sure the few who stay alive
Will laugh and grow to love again

John McGrath 1935 – 2002

The Tower of London

Huge congratulations to Yeoman Warder (YW) Paul Langley who will take over the role of Chief Yeoman Warder on 18 July 2025. Paul had a successful career in the RAF Regiment before he started at HRP in 2021.

Congratulations to Yeoman Serjeant (YS) John Donald who will take over the role of Yeoman Gaoler in June upon the retirement of YG Clive Towell. John, like Clive served in the Royal Hussars before joining HRP in 2014.

Great news for YW Dan Benson who was promoted to Yeoman Serjeant on 1 May 2025 and YW Amanda-Jayne Clark who will also be promoted to Yeoman Serjeant in June. We wish them all well in their new roles.



Jigsaw

Unknown women in war – Tower Hill station

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=09ed28a1dc78>



Music

For Sunday 1st June

Crossing the Bar - George Henry Philips Hewson, 1881–1972

George Hewson was born in Dublin. He was Organist of the Chapel Royal in Dublin, Armagh Cathedral and eventually St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. He had a reputation as a very fine organist, a talent that wasn't helped by having legs that were differing in length, making the pedals even more complex to play! He was also Professor of Music at Trinity College, Dublin and the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Hewson's setting of Crossing the Bar was written in 1939. The poem is a rich metaphor, asking for a peaceful transition between this world and the next, and the hope to see God (my Pilot) on the other side. The journey is likened to a ship crossing a sandbar while leaving the protection of the harbour walls and sailing into the vast ocean.

We would like to dedicate this performance to the memory of Barbara Hall.

Crossing the Bar

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Prayers

Please continue to remember those on our sick list, some of whom are very ill, amongst whom we name: Val, Stanley, John, Rob, Geoff, Kofi and Val.

RIP

David Loveland, Joan Mallett.

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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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]* *[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.

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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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