



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

Dear friends,

For those who are not yet aware, it is my great pleasure to report that our **Chaplain Canon Roger Hall MBE was appointed Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian order (LVO) in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours on 14 June 2025**. The Royal Victorian Order (RVO) is conferred on those deemed to have given significant service to the monarch or the monarchy in a personal capacity. It is awarded by the monarch and remains within the monarch's personal gift. I know you will all share with me in congratulating Roger on this richly deserved appointment.

June 2025 brings a second big day for Roger. On 29 June, when we celebrate our Patronal Festival, Roger will also be celebrating 40 years since his ordination. I am sure that we all look forward to congratulating him on this further milestone on the day.

We also send our congratulations to outgoing Chief Yeoman Warder Rob Fuller who was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) in the King's Birthday Honours List, and we wish him a full recovery from his recent surgery.

Congratulations go also to all at HRP who were recognised in the King's Birthday Honours.



Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order (LVO):

Adrian Phillips, Palaces and Collections Director

Canon Roger Hall, Padre, Tower Chapel

Royal Victorian Medal (Silver):

Nivek Amichund, Chief Warden and Chief Exhibitor

Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO):

Rob Fuller, Chief Yeoman Warder

Commander of the Victorian Order (CVO):

HRP Trustee, Tim Knox

Next Sunday 22 June there will be no services at the Tower of London; instead, we shall be guests of the Master of the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, the Venerable Roger Preece, for a service of sung Holy Communion with our own Chapel choir at 1100. If you wish to attend, there is still time to notify our Chapel Administrator Debbie Corbett [here](#). On 29 June, 06 July and 13 July we shall have an 0915 said Holy Communion service, followed by an 1100 service with choir. (See summary below.) 13 July will see our last services until 14 September, when we will revert to our previous pattern of 0915 and 1100 services. In June and July, while the west entrance remains closed, entry to the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula will be via the clergy vestry down the outside steps near the east window. The Chapel Stewards will guide you.

With all good wishes,

Cortland.

Sunday Service 22nd June 2025
First Sunday after Trinity
1100 Sung Holy Communion at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine.

The Transport for London [website](#) is currently showing a good service between Bank/Tower Gateway to Limehouse Overground Station but you are advised to check on the day.

For information on other ways of getting there, see [here](#). There is free parking.

22nd June 2025: The First Sunday after Trinity

No service at the Tower.

1100 Sung Holy Communion Service at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, with our choir.

Optional lunch afterwards (£28 per head).

29th June 2025: The Second Sunday after Trinity

0915 Said Holy Communion in the White Tower.

We will celebrate our Patronal Festival in St Peter ad Vincula at 1100 with Sung Holy Communion.

Drinks and light refreshments will be served after the service.

6th July 2025: The Third Sunday after Trinity

0915 Said Holy Communion in the White Tower.

Choral Matins at 1100 in St Peter ad Vincula, with coffee after church.

13th July 2025: The Fourth Sunday after Trinity.

0915 Said Holy Communion in St Peter ad Vincula.

1100 Sung Holy Communion in St Peter ad Vincula - 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 and bring something to share!

Poem of the week: *To a Lady Saying Grace in a Station Buffet* by Sheila Nottage

I came across this poem in a collection of Christian poetry which, frustratingly, gives no information about the writer apart from '20th Century'. She published more than one volume of poetry in the 1980s and 1990s, as far as I have been able to discover from Internet searches, but I can tell you nothing more about her.

I find this poem charming. It leaves unsaid how rare it is to see someone saying grace in a public place except on some formal occasion, especially when that person is alone – but that is presumably why it caught the writer's attention and prompted her to pen this poem. I imagine the writer herself sitting in the same station buffet – or did she, perhaps, happen to glance in through the buffet window just as the woman's lips moved? How, in fact, did she know that the woman was saying grace? Was she close enough to hear the words? That seems possible but unlikely. Was the lady in fact simply murmuring to herself, possibly reflecting on the unappetising fare before her? If she had punctuated her grace by signing herself with the cross, that would have settled the matter, but that is not mentioned. More likely it was her physical attitude that convinced the observer, bowing over the food in a way which could only mean that she was giving thanks to God. Then we have the mention of Cana. That wedding was famously splendid: the guests drank so much that the wine ran out. By contrast, we have here 'lukewarm coffee and the veiled hostility of slab cake' - what a wonderful phrase. However meagre her refreshment, the lady gives thanks to God as if this were a feast. Give us this day our daily bread. For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful. Amen.

To a Lady Saying Grace in a Station Buffet

Step nearer to my canvas gracious traveller
That I may paint a portrait of you
Sitting tranquilly against a backcloth
Of trains and timetables,
As, mindful of Cana, you offer thanks
For lukewarm coffee
And the veiled hostility of slab cake.

Sheila Nottage – 20th Century.

Music: Love bade me welcome - Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Sung by Charlie Baigent (Baritone) / Hugh Rowlands (Piano)

Vaughan Williams is one of the greatest composers that Britain has produced. In 1908 he studied briefly with Maurice Ravel in Paris and shortly afterwards he produced several major works including *Five Mystical Songs*.

Vaughan Williams was inspired throughout his life by the liturgy, music and buildings of the Church of England as well as the rich language of the King James Bible. He was also drawn to the mysticism of the metaphysical poets and the texts of the *Five Mystical Songs* are taken from poetry by the priest and poet George Herbert (1593–1633).

A baritone soloist is dominant throughout much of *Five Mystical Songs*, with the chorus largely providing a backdrop of musical colour. *Love bade me welcome* is the most intimate song of the cycle and is set almost entirely for the soloist alone. The poet reflects on his relationship with a loving God and the choir closes the movement in a hushed and shimmering fashion humming the melody of the eucharistic hymn, *O sacrum convivium*.

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
from my first entrance in,
drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
if I lacked anything.

A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth, Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.
(George Herbert)

As a bonus, Charlie Baigent also sings Bach – Gold aus Ophir ist zu schecht (BWV 65), accompanied by Hugh Rowlands. Watch the video on YouTube by following the link below:

[Bach – Gold aus Ophir ist zu schecht \(BWV 65\) - YouTube](#) .

Jigsaw

This week's picture is *The Travelling Companions* by Augustus Leopold Egg (1862) to pick up from our poem this week the theme of women travelling on trains. You can find the jigsaw [here](#).



Prayers

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

RIP

The victims of the Air India disaster at Ahmedabad.

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.



The Reverend Cortland Fransella
Assistant priest, Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London
Deputy Priest in Ordinary to HM the King
Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk

Our Safeguarding Officer

Dan Hawkins, Tower of London Operations Manager
Dan.Hawkins@hrp.org.uk

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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