



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

Dear friends,

Today, October 13th, as I begin this Newsletter, is the day that the church remembers **Edward the Confessor**. At Westminster Abbey, services will take place, and many people will make a pilgrimage to his shrine. He is an important part of our national heritage, so what do we know about him?



Edward was born in 1002, the son of the English King Ethelred and his Norman wife Emma. Living in exile during the Danish rule, he was invited back to England in 1042 to become king and was heartily welcomed as a descendant of the old royal line. Sustained by Edward's diplomacy and determination, his reign was a balancing act between the influences of stronger characters both at home and abroad. His reputation for sanctity was built on his personal qualities, rather than on political issues. He was concerned to maintain peace and justice in his realm, to avoid foreign wars, and to put his faith into practice. He was generous to the poor, hospitable to strangers, but was no mere religious fanatic. Having vowed as a young man to go on pilgrimage to Rome should his family fortunes ever be restored, he later felt it irresponsible to leave his kingdom, and was permitted instead to found and endow a monastery dedicated

to Saint Peter. Edward chose the abbey on Thorney Island, by the river Thames, thus beginning the royal patronage of Westminster Abbey. He died on January 5th, 1066, and his remains were translated to the Abbey on this day in the year 1162.

Recommended reading about Edward the Confessor:

Edward the Confessor: Last of the Royal Blood, by Tom Licence.

Edward the Confessor: King of England, by Peter Rex.

14th October marks the date of the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Harvest Festival

The Reverend Nick Mottershead preached last Sunday at our Harvest Festival. He reminded us, using striking descriptions, that 8% of the London population are in hygiene poverty, unable to afford even the most basic items of daily care we all take for granted. At the service, people brought along gifts of hygiene products and the chapel presented Nick with a cheque for £1000. The Yeoman Warders' Club contributed £500 to this gift. The collection that day was also donated to the London Hygiene Bank.

The Clink

Sixteen people so far have been in touch about going to The Clink at Brixton Prison and this is the final call. I shall be speaking to The Clink this week and hope to come up with two dates which will enable the majority of those interested to attend the lunch.

All Souls' Day

This year *All Souls' Day* falls on Sunday November 2nd. As in previous years, I am now collecting names of loved ones to be remembered at that service. Please send the name (or names) to me or to Debbie.

The Archbishop-designate of Canterbury

I'm aware that Cortland has already acknowledged the appointment of Bishop Sarah as the next Archbishop of Canterbury.

Today I had lunch with her and was able to congratulate her both personally, thanking her for all her support during Barbara's illness and for preaching at her memorial service, as well as on behalf of the Chapel Royal here at the Tower of London.



Service details for Sunday 19th October 2025 The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Choral Matins St Peter ad Vincula

Readings 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4,5. & Luke 18: 1-8.

Psalm 119: 79-104

Anthem: Hear my Prayer (Mendelssohn)

Collect for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we beseech thee, grant thy people grace
to withstand the temptations of the world,
the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts
and minds to follow thee the only God; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the week

Bishop John Fisher was an English Catholic prelate who served as Bishop of Rochester between 1504 - 1535 and was Chancellor of Cambridge University. He was executed here at the Tower of London on 22 June 1535, aged 66, and is buried alongside St Thomas More in the crypt of St Peter ad Vincula. He was canonised by Pope Pius XI on 19th May 1935. He was always thought of as a holy man who cared for his clergy, and by the standards of the day, he lived humbly and without great pomp and ceremony. Bishop John wrote several prayers, many of which are still used in the church today. Perhaps his most famous prayer, which I have chosen for this week, was written when he knew he was to be put to death. It is a prayer asking for courage: whatever the circumstances we find ourselves in, we can always turn to God in our hour of need.

Prayer of St John Fisher

Pray for me, that I may be as courageous in my love of God as you were, even to the point of death if necessary. All the Saints, pray for me! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

St John Fisher 1469- 1535.



Carols by Candlelight, Thursday 11th December, 7pm

Sir David Suchet

Choir of the Chapels Royal, HM Tower of London

Daniel Greenway, organ. Colm Carey, director

The Choir of the Chapels Royal will perform a concert of Christmas music especially for the Chapel congregation on the 11th of December. The carols will be interspersed with Christmas readings performed by **Sir David Suchet**.



Featuring carols old and new, sacred and secular - most of which you will not hear during services - the programme will include the amazing *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Ralph Vaughan Williams as well as the world premiere of *two* new pieces being composed for us.

We are very keen to fill the Chapel for what will be a joyous celebration of the Nativity. It would be great to see you there! Please do spread the word and encourage family and friends to join us.

Tickets £30. Available to purchase soon. We will keep you updated with details of when they go on sale through the newsletter. They will be available to purchase online: [Carols by Candlelight | Tower of London | Historic Royal Palaces](#)

Jigsaw

The Waverley making one of its annual trips down the Thames.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=229fac1e4852>



Prayers

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

RIP

Bob Smith, David Rees, Margarete Thiede and Margaret Pratt.

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, Tower of London Head of Operations Anna.Kimber@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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