



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

Dear friends,



This coming Sunday, 9th November, is Remembrance Sunday. We shall begin our traditional service outside on Tower Green at **1050** and hope that as many of you as possible will join us for this important tribute to those who have given their lives for our freedom. Please note the earlier start time, which enables us to be ready for the two minutes' silence at 1100. The first two minutes' silence in the UK was held on 11th November 1919, the first anniversary of the Armistice. The initial idea came from South Africa and was submitted to King George V. He made an announcement on 7th November, published in all the newspapers, requesting a brief suspension of all activities four days later.

At 1100 on 11th November 1919, the country duly fell silent. Traffic stopped and even trains rolled to a halt. In a Nottingham court, a murder case stopped, and everyone present stood in silence for two minutes. Some of us can still remember road traffic stopping at 1100, people halting their shopping or simply standing still in the street in respect. Such informal public observance seems to have declined, which only reinforces the importance of formal Remembrance events such as ours.

In addition to being an important way of reminding people of the sacrifices made for our continued safety, the annual Remembrance is the major occasion for fundraising by the Royal British Legion (RBL) through their sale of poppies and other charitable collections. The RBL does vital work in supporting those members of the Armed Forces and their families who suffer as a result of their service, whether their injuries are visible or invisible. Donations made to the RBL [online](#) attract Gift Aid, thereby increasing their value by 25%.

Do show your solidarity this Remembrance Sunday with the men and women of the Armed Forces.

With all good wishes, Cortland.



Service Details for Sunday 9th November 2025

Remembrance Sunday

0915 Holy Communion (St Peter ad Vincula)

1050 Remembrance Day Service on Tower Green



Coat Charity

For the last couple of years, we have collected winter coats for a small charity based in the City. Each year, this charity distributes thousands of coats to people who find it hard to buy a warm and weatherproof winter coat. We are collecting again this year. If you have a man's winter coat (not a mac or light coat) of good quality and in good condition, or a child's coat for a 1–3-year-old (for example, a jump suit), the charity would very much appreciate your donations. We will be collecting throughout November and hope to pass the coats on to the charity at the beginning of December. Your generosity could once again help keep someone warm this winter and be part of your Christmas giving. Thank you in advance for donations to this very worthwhile cause.

Poems for Remembrance Sunday

This week we have two poems to think about both from the First World War. First, we have the famous lines written by the Canadian Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, often recited during Remembrance events: *In Flanders Fields*. Next, we have *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke. When I was at school, we studied these two pieces as ‘war poems’, together with those by Wilfred Owen, Robert Graves, Siegfried Sassoon and others. Both McCrae and Brooke died during the conflict. The content of McCrae’s poem is overtly related to war, in a particular time and place, as the writer takes on the persona of those who are already dead, buried in the mud of Flanders and over whose bodies the poppies grow. It encourages readers to carry on the fight, not only in pursuit of a just cause but also in order that the sacrifice of others should not have been in vain; not to continue the fight would be a betrayal of the dead. Remember that McCrae was a senior officer and an experienced soldier. Rupert Brooke, on the other hand, joined up only at the outbreak of war. A civilian and a classicist who had been awarded a fellowship at King’s College, Cambridge in 1913, he was already a published poet. His nostalgic poem [The Old Vicarage, Grantchester](#) had been written from Germany in 1912 when he was experiencing intense homesickness. Whilst his verse here is entitled *The Soldier*, there is in fact little in its content to mark it as a ‘war poem’ and its sentiments perhaps have more in common with his 1912 piece. That said, it was Brooke himself who gave the poem its title – and its alternative title *Nineteen-Fourteen: The Soldier*. So, it seems certain that Brooke himself did want his readers to see it as reflecting not only homesickness in general but that of a soldier on active service overseas, facing the possibility of death.

Thus, we have two war-related poems, one of martial defiance and one of wistful nostalgia. Both provide food for thought at this time of Remembrance.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae 1872-1918

The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke 1887-1915

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

Tickets went on sale on Monday 3rd November at:

[Carols by Candlelight | Tower of London | Historic Royal Palaces](#)



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.

Jigsaw

What else could we possibly have had this week? The puzzle is [here](#).



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, Joaquim, Nick, John, Brian and Val.

RIP

David Rees and the Reverend John Webb.

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.



Cortland.Fransella@hrp.org.uk

Assistant Priest
The Chapels Royal
HM Tower of London

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.

.

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