



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

Dear friends,

This week's Newsletter is very much a reflection about Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day. We, along with the nation, were blessed with good weather, and the sun shone at exactly the right moment on Sunday. This year marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day on May 8 and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on the 15 August, together marking the end of the Second World War. I was delighted that approximately 400 people joined us in our Act of Remembrance on Tower Green. At the point of the two-minute silence, the whole Tower of London fell quiet and there was a palpable moment of shared understanding between us all. For me, apart from the two-minute silence, the repetition of those words 'We will remember them' echoing around the world is the essence of the ceremony. It is then that I feel we give full honour to the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of their country.





Please can I remind you again about the Coat Charity (details below). Donations are already coming in but more are needed, and I am most grateful for your help.

Christmas details will be coming out in the next couple of Newsletters. I'm delighted that the Christmas Carol Concert on December 11th is now sold out. Thank you for supporting it; the idea was to make it as much a concert for chapel members as for those coming from outside.

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

Service Details for Sunday 16th November 2025

The 22nd Sunday after Trinity

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula

1100 Choral Matins

Psalm 98

Readings 2 Thessalonians 3: 16 - end. & Luke 21: 5-19.

Anthem: And I Saw a New Heaven (Bainton).

Collect for the 22nd Sunday after Trinity

Lord, we beseech thee to keep thy household the Church in continual godliness; that through thy protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve thee in good works, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

Poem of the week

Last week Cortland chose two moving poems as we prepared for this time of Remembrance. Today, as I write this Newsletter, is Armistice Day and so I thought it appropriate to select a poem associated with the First World War, as we remember those who made the final sacrifice. Rudyard Kipling, whose poem *Gethsemane* I have chosen, was an English journalist, novelist, poet and short story writer. He was born in British India and this inspired much of his writing. Kipling's only son, John, was killed at the battle of Loos in 1915 at the age of 18. He had originally wanted to join the Navy but due to very poor eyesight was turned down. Through his father's connection with Lord Roberts, John enlisted into the Irish Guards. Kipling was deeply affected by his son's death and many of his poems reflect that profound sorrow. *Gethsemane* describes a soldier reflecting on his inevitable death from gas, with Kipling creating a clear parallel with Christ praying about his coming death in the garden of Gethsemane.

Gethsemane

The Garden called Gethsemane
In Picardy it was,
And there the people came to see
The English soldiers pass.
We used to pass - we used to pass
Or halt, as it might be,
And ship our masks in case of gas
Beyond Gethsemane.

The Garden called Gethsemane,
It held a pretty lass,
But all the time she talked to me
I prayed my cup might pass.
The officer sat on the chair,
The men lay on the grass,
And all the time we halted there
I prayed my cup might pass.

It didn't pass - it didn't pass
It didn't pass from me.
I drank it when we met the gas
Beyond Gethsemane!

Rudyard Kipling 1865 -1936

Jigsaw

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=1ac4343da8b6>



Tower of London

On Tuesday 11th November at 5pm the Tower of London held a short ceremony to mark Armistice Day, and the final day of the Tower Remembers poppy installation. The display of ceramic poppies marked the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.



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, Donald and Val.

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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Our Safeguarding Officer

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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

Registered Charity Number 1160859