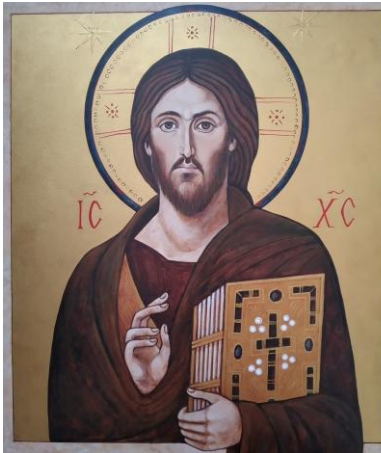




The Chapels Royal of St Peter ad Vincula and St John the Evangelist
HM Tower of London

Dear friends,



This coming Sunday, 23rd November, is celebrated in the Church's calendar as the Feast of Christ the King. The icon to the left shows Christos Pantocrator – Christ the Ruler of All. Whilst he is shown with a halo to indicate his divinity, Jesus is wearing relatively modest clothing and is in the act of blessing the world. The Feast of Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, to emphasise the sovereignty of Christ over all creation, in response to the rise of secularism and atheism in the early 20th century. In 1970, its observance was moved from end of October to the last Sunday of Ordinary Time – that is to say, the last Sunday after Trinity - and thus to the end of the liturgical year. Together with the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, the Anglican Church often observes this Feast as part of the liturgical season of Kingdombtide, which runs between the Fourth

Sunday before Advent and the Feast of Christ the King. Whilst this is a celebration of Christ's sovereignty over creation, it must be remembered that our Lord's kingship was unlike that of most earthly kings, in that it was centred on self-sacrificial service not domination of others. Thus it is that at this Feast we celebrate not only Jesus's rule but also his giving of himself for our salvation.

In his Coronation Oath, His Majesty King Charles III made the following promise: "God of compassion and mercy, whose Son was sent not to be served but to serve, give grace that I may find in thy service perfect freedom and in that freedom knowledge of thy truth. Grant that I may be a blessing to all thy children, of every faith and belief, that together we may discover the ways of gentleness and be led into the paths of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." That theme of service is a constant thread which runs through all that the King undertakes, and it is a theme echoed in the honours that he bestows on others. On 12th November at Windsor Castle, our own Canon Roger Hall was made a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order and King Charles presented him with the insignia which go with that honour. I know that you will all join me in congratulating him on this richly deserved award.



With all good wishes, Cortland.

Service Details for Sunday 23rd November 2025
The 25th (Last) Sunday after Trinity – Christ the King
There will be coffee after church.

0915 Holy Communion (St Peter ad Vincula)
1100 Sung Holy Communion (St Peter ad Vincula)

Readings: Colossians 1:13-20 and John 6:5-14

The Collect for the 25th Sunday after Trinity

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
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 for Stir-Up Sunday

As you will have noticed from the Collect set for this Sunday in the Book of Common Prayer (above), in addition to being the 25th Sunday after Trinity and Christ the King, this is also known as Stir-Up Sunday. It takes the first two words of the Collect as a reminder to make your Christmas pudding in good time for it to mature by 25th December. I am afraid that I cannot tell you much about the poet 'Dindleh', whose self-description is 'Librarian, Egyptophile, lives in the West Country.' Whoever he or she is, I do rather like such a simple evocation of this time of year, when we remember how much there is to do by way of preparation for Christmas.

It's time to get the cookbook out
Dust off the big brown mixing bowl.
The kitchen's warm, it's wet outside
I'm in the best place, on the whole.
This Sunday, each and every year
I mix the Christmas Pudding dough
With apron on and party hat
And carols on the radio.

Traditionally, at this time,
It's usual to make a wish
While stirring in the flour and eggs
And adding them all to the dish,
And when the mixture is all done
The family then hurry in
To stir the mix with wooden spoon
Before it's poured into the tin.

And as it cooks, the wholesome smell
Pervades the house with spicy heat -
The ginger, nutmeg, allspice too
All make a pudding great to eat;
And so begins the season thus,
A month of shopping, cleaning through,
No time to sit and scribble lines
So little time, so much to do.



Christmas State Carol Service
11am Sunday 21st December 2025
Nine Lessons and Carols

If you would like to attend this service, please email Debbie in advance to be added to the guest list. Places are limited so please be in touch soon.

Jigsaw

Here is another view of Christ the King, this time in stained glass. 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, Louise, Stanley, John, Rob, Kofi, Nick, John and Brian.

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.

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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