



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

Dear friends,

This coming Sunday, January 25th, is our last Sunday in St Peter ad Vincula until the scaffolding, which is to cover the chapel and enable work on the roof to begin, is in place. The work is expected to take up to six weeks.

From February 1st, the Sunday morning service will take place in the White Tower at 0930.

Once the scaffolding is firmly fixed, we will be able to return to St Peter ad Vincula, albeit under a shroud of tarpaulin. I know Cortland mentioned this in last week's Newsletter, but I wanted to remind you again.

Please could you make a special effort to be here on Sunday? There will be coffee after church and time to mix and chat before we have six weeks without a choir and with a service of Said Holy Communion only.

At the start of a New Year, can I remind those of you who don't already have a Chapel Pass (and it's much easier to get into the Tower with one!) that all you need to get one is to provide a passport photo with your name clearly written on the back, and Debbie (the Chapel Administrator) will make one up for you.

For your prayers, please remember Bishop Sarah, who on the 28th of January, is confirmed as the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Conversion of St Paul, 25th January 2026

Acts 26: 16b '*I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you.*'

There are many occasions in the letters of St Paul where he speaks of his conversion but one theme we often overlook is that Paul knew conversion was far from being a one-off event. A question that is often asked of me (and I suspect of all clergy) is: 'When did you first have a calling to the priesthood?'. At the tender age of 23 I stepped forward and offered myself for training and ultimately for full-time ministry. I saw myself as nothing else but a parish priest. How wrong I was! I expected to finish my curacy and take on a parish, instead of which I ended up an army chaplain, where my first appointment was to north-west Germany. Seventeen homes later and after a ministry that took me all over the world, I then found myself as Chaplain to the Tower of London – a long way from where I originally thought God was calling me to be. I would argue that all the places, moments and experiences during that time have been conversions. None was a one-off event but more like a series of beads on a long piece of string; God had a different plan for me from that for St Paul. Paul says Jesus told him that he would testify to the things in which the Lord appeared to him. He would keep being converted, day by day, to fulfil God's purpose for him. I hope you feel that your experiences and faith have been like those of St Paul, a series of conversions, with more adventures ahead for you.

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

Sunday Services for 25th January 2026
The Third Sunday after Epiphany and The Conversion of St Paul

0915 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula
1100 Holy Communion St Peter ad Vincula (with refreshments after church)

Readings: Acts 9: 1-22 & Matthew 19: 27 – end.

Motet: Signa eos (Plainchant for the Conversion of St Paul)

Collect for the Conversion of St Paul

O God, who, through the preaching of the blessed
Apostle, St Paul, hast caused the light of the
Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we
beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful
conversion in remembrance, may shew forth our
thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following
the holy doctrine which he taught; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the week

Every time I listen to the news or read the papers, they are full of details of troubles and conflicts. I get increasingly more anxious about the world we live in, constant threats of takeovers and instability, all of which seem to be growing. However, in the face of such turmoil, both at home and abroad, the Church offers stability and calm and the quiet regularity of our rhythm of worship and prayers which, I believe, can be one of the anchors so many people crave and need. This week I have chosen a Celtic prayer, often called a Community Prayer. It begins with the words *The blessing of him, who stilled the storm*, drawing from both Mark 4:39 and Psalm 107:29. I hope you will use the prayer as we make our way through the storms of life. Some people have used this prayer before they go to bed, when they commend the night and following day to God.

Community Prayer

The blessing of him
who stilled the storm,
the blessing of peace,
and a deep new calm,
the blessing of joy
come to your mind.
The blessing of love
help you unwind.
Peace in your dealings,
peace in your days,
peace in your living,
and God be praise.

Peace between me
and each friend.
Peace in the morning
and at the day's end.
Peace in each hour
and in the whole day.
Peace on my journey
and all of the way.
Peace in the work
that I need to do.
Peace in my life,
peace comes from you.

Baptism

On Sunday 18th January, baby Harriet was baptised in the Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula. Many of you will know Harriet's grandfather Chris who is one of our Chapel Stewards and her grandmother Gaye who is one of our Chapel flower volunteers.



Jigsaw

The Tower of London as it started to snow.

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=13a48427f1cf>



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, Donald, Christopher and Brian.

RIP

All those killed in the recent train crash in southern Spain, near Córdoba.

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

Anna Kimber, Deputy Governor and Head of Operations, HM Tower of London: Anna.Kimber@hrp.org.uk Telephone: 07785 954549.

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] [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	[your initials and surname]

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

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