



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

Dear friends,

Like many people around the country and within Europe, I was appalled at Donald Trump's dismissal of our servicemen and women who had served in Afghanistan, suggesting that they had stayed '*well behind the front line*'. That is factually untrue. The Helmand province of Afghanistan saw some of the bloodiest and fiercest fighting of the whole operation. British, American, Dutch, and German troops (to name but four countries) worked closely alongside each other, and the high number of casualties, on all sides, indicates the level of fighting and injuries. As a former army chaplain, I recall vividly standing on the tarmac, accompanied by grieving parents and other loved ones, awaiting the bodies of soldiers who had, without question, died on the front line. This was a disgraceful comment from Mr Trump, who should have known better and instead shown considerable respect for all those servicemen and women, including of course those from his own nation, who died serving their countries. Many of us will also not forget Mr Trump referring in 2018 to the huge numbers of American dead in the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, near Paris, as 'losers'.

This reminds me that *all of us* have a responsibility to be careful both about what we say, and the way that we say it. Great damage can be done by a throwaway comment or an ill-thought-out sentence.

Clearly, none of us is perfect, and if we get angry or carried away, we may risk saying or writing something that can be offensive or damaging, doing ourselves absolutely no credit. St Benedict in his *Rule of Life* says it is better to say nothing than to say something which can cause hurt or injury to another person. I'm all for strong leadership, but I also believe in graciousness and humility in leadership, which comes from accepting that to lead is also to serve.

Please be reminded that next Sunday, February 1st, there will be one service only, in the White Tower at 0930, to which you are all most welcome.

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

**Service details for Sunday February 1st 2026
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

0930am – Holy Communion
Chapel of St John the Evangelist, White Tower

Collect for the Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Almighty and everlasting God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Poem of the week: 'A man's a man, for all that' by Robert Burns

Robert 'Rabbie' Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) is widely regarded as the [national poet of Scotland](#) and is also celebrated worldwide for the humanity of his poetry. Last Sunday saw Burns Night, when even the local London Waitrose had a run on haggis and neeps (swedes, please, not turnips), not to mention the odd dram of the water of life. Burns wrote mostly in his Ayrshire dialect, and a few words may need explanation:

gowd = gold

hoddin-grey = a coarse cloth worn by the less well-off

birkie = someone full of himself

cuif = fool

aboon = above

mauna fa' = must not come by

bear the gree = win first place.

Burns wrote this poem the year before he died. Was he reflecting on the world in which he had lived? Its theme is the equality of people, whatever their apparent rank and status. In his final stanza he prays that Sense and Worth (as opposed to inherited rank or achieved status) may win out and that all the world may be one in brotherhood. Amen to that.

A Man's A Man For A' That Robert Burns (1759-96)

Is there for honest poverty
That hings his head, an a' that?
The coward slave, we pass him by –
We dare be poor for a' that!
For a' that, an a' that,
Our toils obscure, an a' that,
The rank is but the guinea's stamp,
The man's the gowd for a' that.

What though on hamely fare we dine,
Wear hoddin grey, an a' that?
Gie fools their silks, and knaves their wine –
A man's a man for a' that.
For a' that, an a' that,
Their tinsel show, an a' that,
The honest man, tho e'er sae poor,
Is king o' men for a' that.

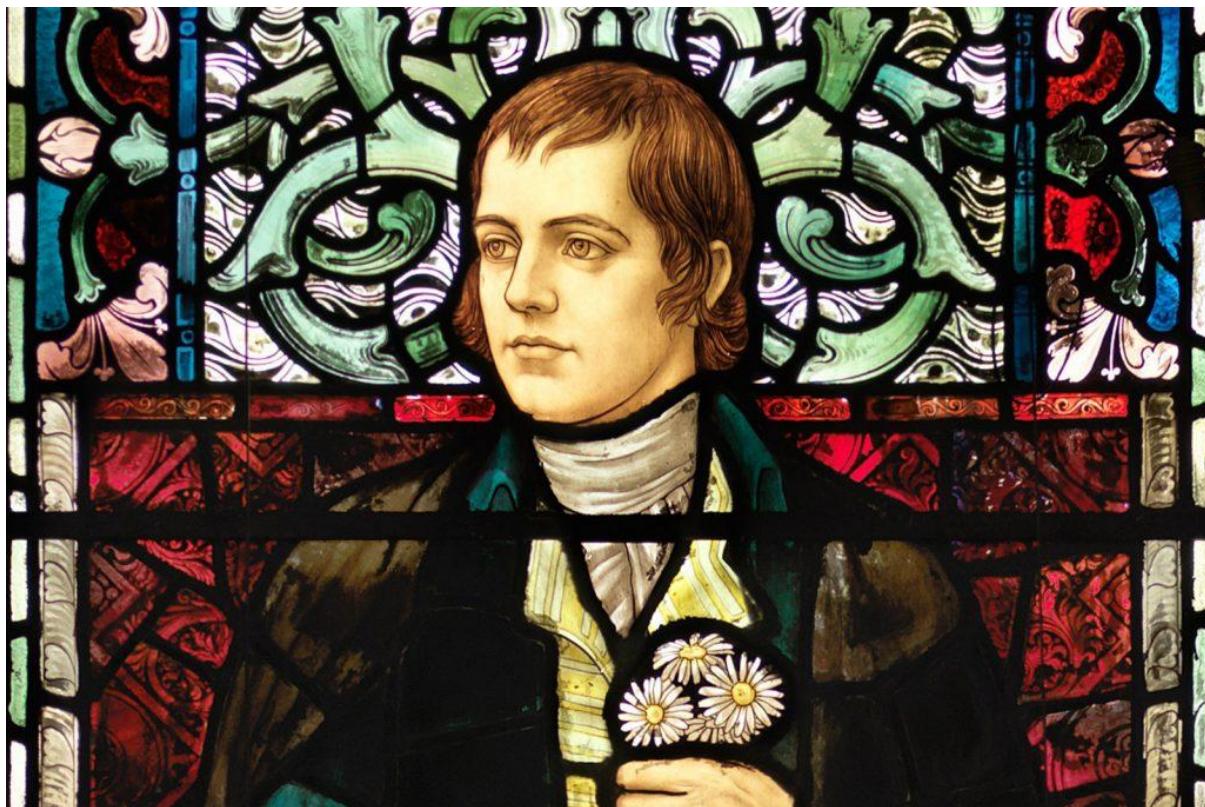
Ye see yon birkie ca'd 'a lord,'
Wha struts, an stares, an a' that?
Tho hundreds worship at his word,
He's but a cuif for a' that.
For a' that, an a' that,
His ribband, star, an a' that,
The man o' independent mind,
He looks an laughs at a' that.

A prince can mak a belted knight,
A marquis, duke, an a' that!
But an honest man's aboon his might –
Guid faith, he mauna fa' that!
For a' that, an a' that,
Their dignities, an a' that,
The pith o' sense an pride o' worth,
Are higher rank than a' that.

Then let us pray that come it may
(As come it will for a' that),
That Sense and Worth o'er a' the earth,
Shall bear the gree an a' that.
For a' that, an a' that,
It's coming yet for a' that,
That man to man, the world, o'er,
Shall brithers be for a' that.

Jigsaw Puzzle

A stained-glass window inside Bute Hall at the University of Glasgow depicts Robert Burns, the Bard of Scotland.



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

David Thomas MVO (former Crown Jeweller)

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] [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

Registered Charity Number 1160859